



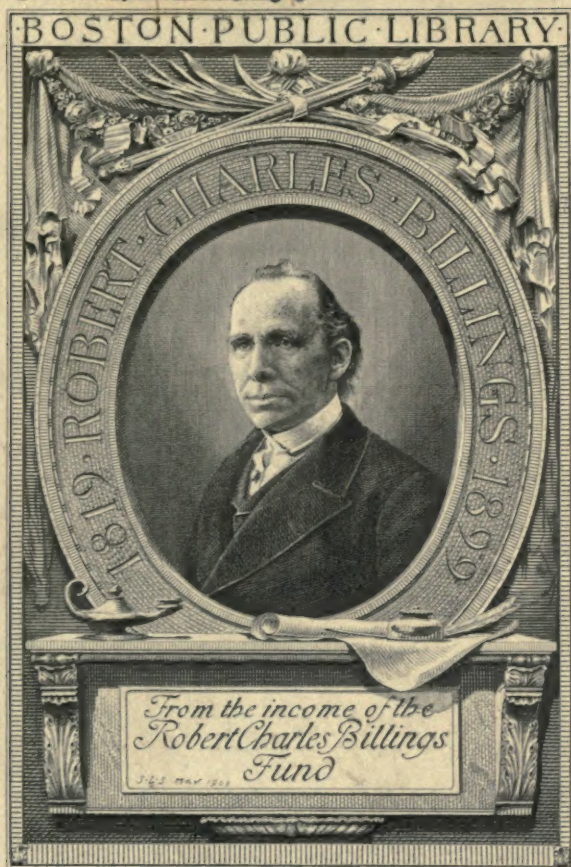
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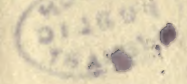


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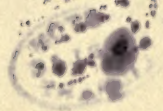




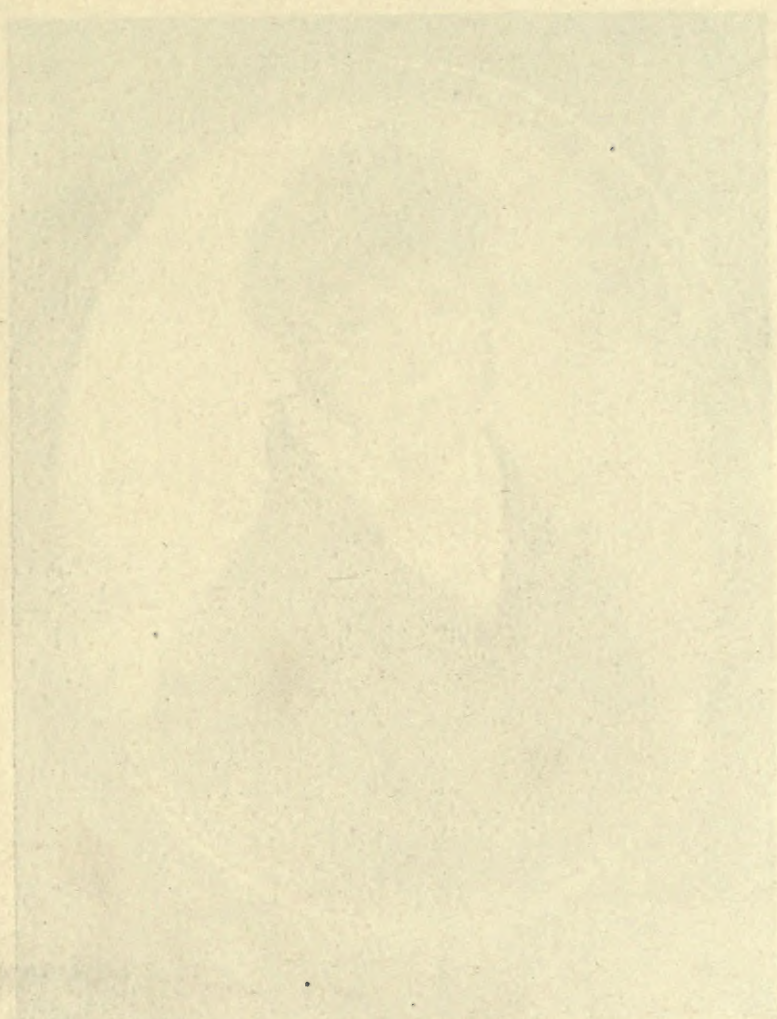
A HISTORY  
OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY







A HISTORY  
OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY







NATHANIEL WALKER APPLETON  
*First Secretary*

From a miniature in the possession of Mrs. Charles Appleton Miles, of Brattleborough, Vermont. Courtesy of Mr. William Channing Appleton, of Cohasset, Massachusetts, a great grandson of Dr. Appleton.



A HISTORY  
OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL  
SOCIETY

WITH BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF THE  
FOUNDERS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

1781-1922

BY  
WALTER L. BURRAGE, A.M., M.D.  
SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY

#3733.17

ILLUSTRATED WITH  
VIEWS OF SOME OF THE MEETING PLACES  
REPRODUCTIONS OF OLD DOCUMENTS  
AND  
PORTRAITS OF IMPORTANT OFFICERS



[Chorwood, Mass.]

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PITTACUS, of Mitylene

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**Dedicated to**  
**THE FUTURE PRESIDENTS OF THE**  
**MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
**WHO MAY WISH TO BUILD**  
**MORE WISELY**  
**ON THE STRUCTURES**  
**OF THE PAST**







## PREFACE

THE Massachusetts Medical Society has had an uninterrupted life of one hundred and forty-one years, making it the oldest state medical society in the United States with a continuous existence. It has shown a steady growth in numbers from a total membership of sixty-seven in 1803, just before it was reorganized on a democratic basis, to over four thousand in 1922, representing today seventy per cent of all the physicians of the Commonwealth. The society has consistently upheld and furthered the higher aims of medicine and during its long life has numbered among its officers and fellows a large proportion of the eminent medical men of the state. Its history has not been written since 1838 when Ebenezer Alden, of Randolph, published his "Historical Sketch of the Origin and Progress of the Massachusetts Medical Society," being the "Annual Discourse" for that year. Previous to that, and only a short time after the society's reorganization, Josiah Bartlett had outlined the history in his oration of 1810, while subsequently Samuel Adams Green referred to it in the Centennial Address in 1881, under the title: "History of Medicine in Massachusetts." All of these histories deal with a fully formed society, called into existence by the passage of the charter act by the Legislature and signed in due course by Governor John Hancock on November 1, 1781. The questions as to why the organization came into being and who were responsible for its birth were given no attention.

The present secretary of the society, while delving in the manuscript records and documents preserved in the files, has discovered data hitherto overlooked concerning the steps which led up to the founding. There and elsewhere he has gathered materials for a story of the society, beginning as far back as 1765, when Cotton Tufts, of Weymouth, tried to organize a state medical society, and continuing through the year 1922, his object being to let the records, where they would, tell their own tale by direct quotation.

Numerous biographies of those who have been chiefly concerned in managing and promoting the society are placed at the ends of



the seven chapters of the main story and several more are woven into the text. They set forth in concise form the lives of those who seemed to be most prominent; lack of space preventing the inclusion of all except those indicated as the prime movers by repeated study of the records and by thirteen years' observation of the activities of the society from the intimate viewpoint of a secretary.

For the past sixty years it has been the custom for the council, the representative governing body, to elect the president for two successive years; thus every two years a new president comes into office with a limited knowledge of the body over which he is to preside. The suggestion has been put forward more than once that this society follow the practice which obtains in most other state medical societies, namely of electing a different president every year. Whether that becomes the custom or not it is the hope of the author that presidents of this society in the future will find this book of value in learning not only the traditions and sound practices that have come out of the past but also where are the rocky places that threaten the course of the ship they are steering.

In completing a self-imposed task, which has brought him into contact with so much that is of absorbing interest, the author craves the reader's indulgence for errors that may have crept in and he wishes to thank those who have assisted in many ways in the preparation of this volume. Foremost among them Dr. John W. Farlow, Librarian of the Boston Medical Library, has been instrumental in obtaining nearly all the illustrations besides engaging in countless investigations into the topography of old Boston and searching the archives of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Boston Athenaeum, the Bostonian Society, the Essex Institute and elsewhere for needed data. Some of the others to whom gratitude is due are: Dr. Francis W. Goss, Secretary for thirty-four years, for reminiscences of eighteen presidents, and our Librarian Emeritus, Dr. Edwin H. Brigham, for biographical notes and recollections; Mr. Julius H. Tuttle, Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for many favors through a series of years; Mr. Charles Perry Fisher, Librarian of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia, for facts about the life of John Linn, a founder; Mr. George Francis Dow, of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, for searching the files of the newspapers



of the last part of the eighteenth century for facts bearing on the early history and biographies; Mr. John Robinson, of the Essex Institute, Salem, for information and cuts; the late Mr. Henry E. Woods, Commissioner of Public Records and Mr. Albert P. Langtry, Secretary of the Commonwealth, for looking through the archives of the state and for a copy of the original bill granting a charter, filed in May, 1781; Mr. William Channing Appleton, who provided a photograph of the miniature of his great grandfather, Nathaniel Walker Appleton, the first secretary; Dr. Frederick Cheever Shattuck, for permission to photograph the portrait of his grandfather, George Cheyne Shattuck, the elder, president and founder of the Shattuck lectureship; Mrs. Austin Holden, of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, for biographical material; Dr. John W. Bartol, President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, for reading and correcting manuscript; Ex-Presidents George W. Gay, Walter P. Bowers and Samuel B. Woodward, who have been good enough to supply data for their biographies, and Mr. Robert H. Pearman, Photographer of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for constant assistance with the photographic and photostatic reproductions.

WALTER L. BURRAGE

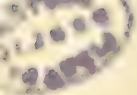






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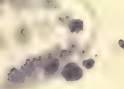
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A HISTORY  
OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY





# A HISTORY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY

#### THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE FOUNDING

THE Massachusetts Medical Society, founded in 1781, is the oldest medical society in the United States with a record of uninterrupted meetings from its founding to the present. Although the Medical Society of New Jersey began its existence fifteen years before the Massachusetts Medical Society it held no meetings from 1775 to 1781, and again suspended them during the twelve years from 1795 to 1807, so that its continuous existence may be said to date from the last year and not from 1766.

The first medical society in the country was one which existed in Boston in 1735-1736. Here is all that is known of it, as contained in a letter from Dr. William Douglass of Boston to Dr. Cadwalader Colden of New York under date of February 18, 1735-1736:

" . . . we have lately in Boston formed a medical society, of which this gentleman (Dr. Clark, the bearer of this letter), a member thereof, can give you a particular account. We design from time to time to publish some short pieces; there is now ready for the press number one, with this title page: "Number One. MEDICAL MEMOIRS, Containing 1. A miscellany. Practical introduction. 2. A history of the dysentery epidemical in Boston in 1734. 3. Some account of a gutta-serena in a young woman. 4. The anatomical inspection of a spina ventosa in the vertebrae of the loins in a young man. 5. Some practical comments or remarks on the writings of Dr. Thomas Sydenham by a Medical Society in Boston, New England."

The letter is now among the Colden papers in the possession of the New York Historical Society. Another letter, signed "Philantropos," appeared in the columns of the *Boston Weekly News-Letter* of January 5, 1737, being addressed "To the Judicious and

## 2 MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Learned President and Members of the Medical Society in Boston." It dealt with the question of registration of regular medical practitioners throughout the province. This society was heard from as late as 1741, for in the issue of the *Boston Weekly News-Letter* of November 13 of that year is this statement:

"A Medical Society in Boston, New England, with no quackish view as is the manner of some; but for the Comfort and Benefit of the unhappy and miserable sufferers by the excruciating Pain, occasioned by a stone in the Bladder, do publish the following case."

The next medical society, of which we have a record in a manuscript in the library of the New York Academy of Medicine, was "A Society of Gentlemen in New York, founded about 1749, for the weekly discussion of Medical Subjects." The title of the manuscript is:

"An Essay on the nature of ye malignant Pleurisy that proved so remarkably fatal to the inhabitants of Huntington, Long Island; and some other places on Long Island, in the winter of the year 1749, Drawn up at the request of a Weekly Society of Gentlemen in New York, and addressed to them at one of their meetings, by Dr. Jno. Bard, New York, 1749."

Nothing further is known about this society.

When Dr. John Morgan returned to Philadelphia from Europe in 1765 he formed the "Philadelphia Medical Society" of which very little information has been preserved. It is referred to in the correspondence of Benjamin Rush in 1768 and in that year the society became a part of the American Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge, later known as the American Philosophical Society.

It was in the identical year 1765 that an attempt to form a medical society was made in Massachusetts. We are fortunate in having some original documents which describe this movement and are justified in printing them, even though the effort was not crowned with success, for they throw light on a general desire to better the status of medicine in America. In Europe there were in existence at this time, as models for a medical society, the Royal academies at Berlin (1700), Goettingen (1751), and Munich (1759), also the medical society of Edinburgh (1737) and the Paris Académie de chirurgie (1731). The medical societies of London (1773) and Paris (1776) were to spring into being before the Massachusetts Medical Society actually took shape in 1781.





The year 1766 was to see the New Jersey Medical Society launched. The previous year, in Massachusetts, Cotton Tufts, of Weymouth, seems to have been the prime mover in an attempt to form a medical society in that state. His name and the name of Charles Stockbridge, of Scituate, and Joseph Gardner, of Milton and Dorchester, appear in the "Graph. Iatroon" letter, soon to be described. Sixteen years later these names appear among the incorporators of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Cotton Tufts drew the "Regulations" for the proposed society in 1765, as will be seen from the following letters, reproduced from the originals; thus early had he formulated the principles on which a society should be organized; his comments are illuminating. In 1782 he, with Dr. Lloyd and Dr. Holten, were on the committee appointed to draw up by-laws for the state medical society, then just formed; we have a draft of these first by-laws in Dr. Tufts' handwriting. The documentary evidence points to him as the guiding spirit after the society had been started. When once launched he gave a large share of his time to sustaining and carrying it forward.

The Graph Iatroon letter, that is, the Greek for letter of a writing physician, the author being unknown, is printed here followed by a letter of Dr. M. Baker, of Braintree, to Dr. Tufts, with the latter's comments on it; then comes Dr. Tufts' prospectus for the formation of a medical society; finally is to be mentioned a letter of Dr. Tufts to Dr. John Wilson, of Hopkinton, preserved in the society files, inviting Wilson to a meeting for the formation of a medical society at Gardner's tavern on the first Wednesday in June, 1765, but not reproduced here because it duplicates the matter in Dr. Tufts' comments on Dr. Baker's letter.

#### GRAPH. IATROON LETTER

"SIR: There has been some time on foot a proposal forming medical Societies or Associations of Doctors analogous to those of the Clergy for the more speedy Improvement of our young Physicians; as by communicating to each other any Discoveries in any of the Branches of Physick, especially Botany, for which this Country is an ample Field. To get the Profession upon a more respectable footing in the Country by suppressing this Herd of Empiricks who have bro't such intolerable contempt on the Epithet *Country Practitioner*. And to increase Charity & good Will amongst the lawful Members of the Profession that they may avoid condemning & calumniating each other before the Plebians as it is too common for the last that's call'd in a difficult Case to do by those that preceeded him which we apprehend to be highly detri-

#### 4 MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

mental to the Profession and the chief Root from whence these very Empiricks spring.

We don't know what Objections there may, there have been such Societies in Boston and where medical Academies are established & Empiricks are punished by Law there is not so much need of them. We should esteem it a favor to be convinced of the impracticability of such a Scheme if it is so, & if not why it may not immediately take place. —

If you like our Design as all do to whom we have proposed it, we humbly conceive that the only way to effect it is for you to join heartily in the Cause & agree upon some certain time & Place to meet in of which all the Physicians *digni honore* must be notified and to bring with each of them a written Plan of Regulations if they please, at the Meeting to chuse a Moderator and after hearing each Plan that to be adopted which shall obtain a Majority of votes &c. &c. &c.:

Presuming upon your Concurrence we desire you to promote the Design by circulating this Paper thro' the Hands of all the under mentioned Physicians, or others beyond their Limits, but we must be careful that it falls not into the Hands of any but orthodox Physicians, and to prevent it you should deliver it yourself or send it by a trusty Person carefully seald & superscribed lest a teltale Wife or Child divulge that which must be as secret as Masonry till some Societies are established.

The Gentlemen within compass of our knowledge whom we think it necessary to invite are as follows, viz:

In Cambridge	Kneeland.	Roxbury	{ Davis Williams.	Dorchester	Holden.
Milton	Gardiner.	Brantree	Sahles.	Weymouth	Tufts.
Hingham	Hersey.	Scituate	Stockbridge.	Medford	Tufts.
Watertown	{ Convers Spring.	Newton	King.	Dedham	Ames.
Medfield	{ Jerauld. Fuller.	Middleboro'	Oliver.	Wooburn	Flagg.
Waltham	Williams.	Weston	{ Shaw Woolson.	Needham	Deming.
Concord	{ Minott Prescott.				

You are desired to repair to Gardners Tavern on Boston Neck at the hour of two P.M. precisely on the third Monday in March 1765.

It is hoped that the elder and established Physicians will promote this Affair by their Influence that cannot by their Presence.

Yrs.

(Signed) Graph. Iatroon i.e. for Greek γράφ. Ιατρῆιον (writing physician)  
Utopia 2d. of 2d. Moon. 1765th. Year of Christian Era."

LETTER OF M. BAKER TO COTTON TUFTS  
as to formation of a medical society

"Braintree, y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> of Mar; 1765.

Sir;

I am desired to acquaint you, th<sup>t</sup> agreeable to the paper, wh<sup>b</sup> I suppose was put into your hands y<sup>e</sup> other day, several gentlemen of the profession assembled according to the direction of s<sup>d</sup>. paper, and have agreed to meet again, on ye first Thursday in May next at 2 oclock P.M.; at Gardiners on Boston neck. Your attendance accordingly is desir<sup>d</sup>. Your letter to Doctor Kneeland was read with much approbation: the queries were very just. But how to lay a plan so as to take effect, and accomplish so good a design, hic labor hoc opus est., it is to be hoped you will give your attention to it, & favour us with a plan th<sup>t</sup> will take place.

from your humb<sup>e</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>.

M. Baker

To Cotton Tufts Esq<sup>r</sup>

P.S. S<sup>r</sup>. You are desired not to fail of acquainting Dr. Hersey of it & pray S<sup>r</sup>. use your influence to have him attend.

It is desired that none be acquainted with it but ye gentlemen mentioned in your paper."

Notes in Dr. Tufts' handwriting on the back of above letter.

Rough notes with many interlineations and almost illegible; on the opposite page what appears to be a new draft, headed: "Gentlemen." It is as follows:

"You have enclos'd the substance of a paper that was not long since circulated amongst a number of physicians — In compliance with which there has been a meeting of a number of physicians who have confer'd upon the subject & have adjourned their meeting to ye first Wednesday in June at Gardiners on Boston Neck. The profession at present is not upon ye most reputable footing, and the want of conversation, candor and generosity very much obstruct the growth of medical knowledge and give great advantage to the ignorant and designing. It is hard to suggest any scheme that would remedy this evil until gentlemen of genius, years and experience adopt such a scheme and exert their influence to render it successful. Your concurrence in such a design I flatter myself would conduce greatly to answer this desirable purpose. To assist ye hon<sup>r</sup>d enquirer after truth & to lead mankind to ye acquisition of knowledge [illegible] a benevolent mind much satisfaction. That much good may be done in this way I have not the least doubt. . . ."

PROSPECTUS OF COTTON TUFTS AS TO THE FORMATION OF A  
MEDICAL SOCIETY. 1765

Endorsed on the outside in Dr. Tufts' handwriting: "Regulations drawn up and presented at y<sup>e</sup> meeting by C<sup>n</sup>. Tufts & approv'd of."



## 6 MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

"It is humbly proposed by the subscriber, that the gentlemen meeting for the purpose of an association, do agree to form themselves into a society for promoting medical knowledge & assisting each other in the practice of physick. That a moderator pro tempore & a clerk for the year, be chosn.

That the society meet in the months of April, July & November, particular time and place to be agreed on by the society.

That as often as any member makes any useful discoveries or meets with any thing curious or extraordinary in physick or surgery, anatomy, chymistry, botany etc. he may present the same in writing to the clerk of the society to be communicated at the next meeting, or if he chuses, he may personally communicate y<sup>e</sup> same.

That certain subjects be determined upon from time to time to be discussed at y<sup>e</sup> next meeting, upon which subjects any member may deliver his sentiments personally or in writing.

That the society invite such others to join with them as they shall judge properly qualified.

That the society agree upon some method for defraying its expenses.

That the society endeavour to support the characters of its members and discountenance quacks & pretenders in physick.

That all the members treat each other with respect, cautiously avoid calumniating or otherwise degrading each other in the esteem of mankind

and to propose good will & harmony in the practice of physic . . .

That the following rules be observed:

That no one condemns the practice of another, untill he has heard the reasons of his practice and given him an opportunity to explain himself and then not to condemn him before the patient or people.

That as often as one member is calld to the patient of another (if purposely sent for) he does endeavour to have the standing physician present, if the circumstances of the case will admit of it, and if it happens that he be not present, that he leaves his advice in writing & otherways avoids prescribing unless the case requires immediate application.

That nostrums, arcanums & uromancy as practis'd to deceive and filch y<sup>e</sup> populace be discountenanced.

That prejudice to particular medicines be removed from y<sup>e</sup> populace.

That other regulations take place as occasion requires.

All which is submitted By y<sup>r</sup> obd<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup> Cotton Tufts"

On the back is the following:

"It is agreed that all the gentlemen mentioned in the proposals be wrote to & such others invited as follows viz. Dr. John Wilson of Hopkington. Time for meeting y<sup>e</sup> first Wednesday in June, at two clock. That every member if he pleases bring a plan for y<sup>e</sup> regulation of y<sup>e</sup> society. That a plan be brought by the clerk in case he should not attend to write to y<sup>e</sup> society.

Present Drs. Sably, Gardiner, Dogget, Ames, Starr, Jervo, Tufts "

As to the meeting place of the men who sought to form a medical society at this early date we may note that "Gardner's Tavern" on Boston Neck is referred to in the Selectmen's Minutes of the

Town of Boston (Twentieth Report of the Record Commissioners, 1889, pp. 179-304) as the "George Tavern on the Neck. Gideon Gardner, Innholder." Gardner was licensed to sell "strong drink, both as innholder and retailer" for the year 1768. In the minutes of October 10, 1765, it was

"agreed upon and ordered that all persons concerned therein" i.e. with fixing the bounds between the towns of Boston and Roxbury, "be and hereby are desired to meet at the House of Cap<sup>t</sup>. Gideon Gardner who keeps the George Tavern on Boston Neck, at 10 OClock in the Forenoon of said day, in order to attend the said Business."

The spelling of the name Gardner at that time is of interest. In the Graph. Iatroon letter it is spelled without an i, but in Cotton Tufts' letter and in the letter of M. Baker the i is inserted between the d and the n. Generally in the records of the selectmen and in the Charter Book of the Massachusetts Medical Society, containing the names of the early fellows, the i is omitted, as it is in the spelling of the name of Silvester Gardiner (1707-1786), a prominent practitioner of the time, in Boston, spelled there "Sylvester Gardner."

We are not sure whether it was Joseph Gardner, one of the petitioners to the legislature in May, 1781, for a charter, who was present at the meeting at Gardner's tavern in June, 1765, just sixteen years before the petition to the General Court, or another Gardner. There were several physicians of that name at the time in and about Boston.

On a paper addressed to "Doctor Cotton Tufts of Weymouth, N. England," found in the files, is this memorandum in Dr. Tufts' handwriting:

"Papers relating to Medical Meetings," and on the inside this comment, also in his handwriting: "One of the inclosed Papers [that] were circulated amongst a Number of Physicians wh<sup>ch</sup>. drew a meeting of part of them and conferences were had upon the Subject of an Association of Physicians and endeavours us'd but after three meetings of part of those that were invited the matter ended."

We may regard this as Dr. Tufts's last word on the proposition to found a medical society in Massachusetts in 1765. The letters which have been copied and printed show an honest attempt to make a medical society in Massachusetts and that Cotton Tufts, at least, had constructive ideas as to how to found such a society.

The next medical society to be formed was the Medical Society of New Jersey. This merits considerable attention, for a state society came into existence nine years before the Revolution, and its experiences formed a basis for guidance in establishing the society in Massachusetts just after the war. In making a description of the New Jersey society the original records are used so far as possible.

#### THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

A considerable number of practitioners of physic and surgery, in East New Jersey, having agreed to form a society for their mutual improvement, as recorded in the *New York Mercury*, under date of June 27, 1766, a meeting for the incorporation of a "voluntary association" was held at New Brunswick, July 23, 1766. At this meeting, attended by seventeen members, there were adopted: "Instruments of Association and Constitutions of the New Jersey Medical Society," in fourteen sections and signed by fourteen incorporators. The first five sections recited the principles of medical ethics to be observed, the sixth prescribed two stated meetings a year, on the first Tuesdays in May and November, alternately at New Brunswick and at Princeton. The president was to be elected yearly and should hold office for but one year, being ineligible for office for another year. Candidates for membership were to apply to the secretary at least one month before a general meeting, and he should immediately notify the members of the society, candidates being "regularly balloted for by means of squares and triangles, or such other device as may be agreed on," three fourths in the affirmative to elect.

At this first meeting plans were made for organizing four "Inferior Medical Societies," so called, denominated "Elizabethtown, Bound Brook, Princetown and Morristown Inferior Medical Societies," these to report to the parent society at stated intervals and to hold regular meetings, at least once in two months, in accordance with the seventh article of the Instruments of Association. Another thing this first meeting did, something that seems to have had a bad effect on the society in subsequent time, was to adopt an elaborate table of fees and rates to be charged by the members of the society, for at the meeting in November, 1766, it is stated that

"Some evil-minded persons had thrown an odium on the proceedings of this Society, tending to prejudice the minds of the inhabitants against so laudable



an Institution." And "It was reported to the Board, that the principle clamour of the inhabitants was owing to some improper expressions having escaped some member of this Society, in regard to visiting fees and other charges which had brought the Society into disrepute with many persons who esteem it an unjust scheme invented by the Society to bring the inhabitants to terms."

The meeting voted to let each member charge whatever he thought proper until the next meeting. The bill of rates was discussed at different meetings until 1770, when it was "*deferred sine die.*" Constant attempts to get a charter from the State were made in these early years of the existence of the Society, but without success. Members were obliged to give satisfactory reasons for absence from three meetings or lose membership, and at one time a money penalty was imposed upon those absent. Regular meetings were held twice a year until November 4, 1775, when the membership of the Society was twenty-six, and there were five members present at the meeting on that date. The Inferior Medical Societies seem to have held only occasional meetings, judging by the references to them in the proceedings.

The Society did not meet again until November 6, 1781, at the time the Massachusetts Medical Society was being organized. The reason for the hiatus in the activities of the New Jersey Society is given in the Transactions for May 7, 1782, as follows:

—"The war (which has been productive of the happy Revolution in America), having claimed the attention of all ranks of Freemen, most of the members of this Society took an early decided part in the opposition to British tyranny and oppression, and were soon engaged either in the civil or military duties of the State. Added to this, the local situation of the war (the scene of action being chiefly in this and the adjoining states), rendered an attendance on the usual stated meetings, not only unsafe but in a great measure impracticable. . . ."

Meetings were resumed November 6, 1781, with five members present and were continued regularly until November, 1795. A seal was ordered in November, 1786 and it was obtained in November, 1789. The president generally opened the meeting with a dissertation, and this was published in the Transactions. That delivered by President William Burnet, November 7, 1786, before the twenty-two members present being entitled, "The natural phenomenon of sleep explained, with the effects of opium and other soporiferous drugs." At one meeting one of the members performed an operation before the society for the removal of a large

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tumor of the forearm, the members advising as to the diagnosis and treatment thought necessary. The table of rates and fees, as first presented at the meeting of incorporation, was reaffirmed, after discussion, at the meeting of May 2, 1786.

A practice act was passed by the New Jersey Legislature, November 26, 1783, without mentioning the New Jersey Medical Society. This was a reënactment of an act passed by the Governor and General Assembly of New Jersey, September 26, 1772, and called "An Act to Regulate the Practice of Physic and Surgery within the Colony of New Jersey." It was to be for the period of five years and is identical with the act of 1772. A copy, finely engrossed on several sheets of rag paper, is preserved on page 28 of the Bowditch Book, volume I, in the steel safe in the Society's vault at the Boston Medical Library.

By the terms of the Act it is provided that no one shall practice in the State before he shall have been first examined, approved and admitted by two of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the State, "taking to their assistance for such examination two able and skillful practitioners in Physic and Surgery." A certificate was to be issued, signed by at least three of the above. This act was repealed February 16, 1816, when the new act extending the charter of the New Jersey Medical Society for another twenty-five years was passed.

### EARLY RELATIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY WITH THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

#### *Extract from Transactions of the Medical Society of New Jersey.*

"Meeting held at Burlington, November 6, 1787. On motion, resolved, that the President be requested to write to the President of the Medical Society of the State of Massachusetts Bay, and acquaint him with the rise, progress and present state of the New Jersey Medical Society, and to solicit a similar communication from him relative to that Society, and also to propose a correspondence between the Societies; and that the President be further requested to lay a copy of this letter and answer thereto (if he should receive any) before the Society at the next stated meeting."

#### *Extract from the Proceedings of the Council, Massachusetts Medical Society.*

"At a meeting of the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society at the Selectmen's room in Boston, 25 March, 1788, Two letters from Dr. Jonathan Elmer, of Trenton, N.J., President of the New Jersey Medical Society, to

Dr. Lloyd, together with a copy of an Act of the Legislature of New Jersey, to regulate the practice of Physic and a copy of the Institution and Rules of the said Society were read, whereupon VOTED That the above letters and papers be delivered to the Corresponding Secretary [John Warren] and that he be directed to form an answer thereto and that the whole be laid before the Mass. Med. Soc'y at their next meeting."

NOTE. The papers were submitted to the meeting of the Society on April 9, 1788 as attested by the Records of the Society, page 78, typewritten copy.

*Extract from the Transactions of the Medical Society of New Jersey.*

Meeting of the New Jersey Medical Society at New Brunswick, May 6, 1788.

"The President informed the Society that, agreeably to their request, at the last meeting, he had written to Doctor James Lloyd, of Boston, supposing him to be President of The Massachusetts Medical Society, (Note: Cotton Tufts was President.) on the subject proposed, and had received an answer, together with a copy of the Charter of Incorporation of the said Society, which were laid before the Society and read.

"Ordered, that the copy of the Charter of Incorporation of the Massachusetts Medical Society be preserved among the Archives of this Society."

At last and after many attempts, on June 2, 1790, fifty physicians mentioned by name, members of the Society, were incorporated by the Council and General Assembly of New Jersey for the term of twenty-five years.

This act defined what officers were to be elected; namely, a president, vice-president, treasurer and two secretaries, all to hold office for a year; the Society might have a certain amount of property, and sue and be sued in the courts; it might use a common seal, which the president was to keep; fifteen members should constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and the Society was given authority to make laws for its government.<sup>1</sup>

Corresponding Secretary John Beatty, of the New Jersey Medical Society, said of it in a letter to John Warren, Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society, under date of June 9, 1791, (Bowditch Book, Vol. I, p. 50):

"Altho this act conveys no powers, but such as the Society were in the exercise of before; yet it has served essentially to promote the respectability and dignity of its members."

<sup>1</sup> Notes from the Minutes and Proceedings of the New Jersey Medical Society, I. 1766-1858. Newark, 1875, Also, History of Medicine in New Jersey, and of its Medical Men, from the Settlement of the Province to A. D. 1800. By Stephen Wickes, AM., M. D. Newark, N.J., 1879.



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The meetings of the Society were suspended from November, 1795 until June 23, 1807, and from that time annual meetings of the Society have been held regularly. The title of the Society adopted by its founders was, "New Jersey Medical Society." The act of 1790 changed the title to the "Medical Society of New Jersey." By the act of 1816 it became the "Medical Society of the State of New Jersey," and by a supplementary act, passed in 1818, it was restored to the title in the act of 1790, and thus it has remained.

The lessons to be learned from the founding of the New Jersey society were first, that a state medical society should have nothing to do with fee tables, they being local affairs to be sponsored, if at all, by the smaller medical societies in the different cities and towns of a state; second, for the state medical society to furnish or control the laws governing the practice of medicine. In both respects the Massachusetts Medical Society was fortunate, for the Legislature showed unbounded confidence in the promoters, the matter of fees was not touched on and the newly formed society was given charge of medical practice in perpetuity by the charter of 1781. It seems to us now more rational to entrust the determination of who are suitably trained to practice medicine to a medical society made up of reputable practitioners than to give it to two justices of the supreme court advised by "two able and skillful practitioners in physic and surgery." We have known of judges who considered practitioners of Christian Science or Chiropractors as able and skilful. How could they form an intelligent opinion without a knowledge of the principles of the science of medicine? The personality of a practitioner is what counts with the laity. They argue that a man of parts could not be satisfied with half knowledge, with inadequate training in medicine; that their friend is surely such a man, therefore if he believes that all human ills come from maladjustment of the spinal vertebrae, the doctrine of the chiropractor, then that must be the true cause of disease, and the chiropractor is just as able and skilful a practitioner as a regular physician.

It is evident, therefore, that some association trained in the elements of medicine, a subject by its nature inaccessible to the body politic, should pass upon the acquirements of those who seek to care for the sick. How otherwise could the people be protected from the charlatans and those who prey on the credulity of the public?



Massachusetts contributed her state constitution, a charter of civil liberty, to the growth of the American union in 1780; the Legislature began its sessions in October of that year; just previously had been founded (May 14, 1780) the Boston Medical Society, and (May 4, 1780) the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the last being in existence today. In his dissertation on the Progress of Medical Science before the Massachusetts Medical Society at its annual meeting, June 6, 1810, Josiah Bartlett speaks of

"An association of undergraduates, denominated the anatomical society [which] existed at the university in 1771, and was instituted previous to that time. They held private meetings for a discussion of medical and physiological questions, and were in possession of a skeleton; but their demonstrations were confined to the dissection of appropriate animals, as the examination of a human body, was then an extraordinary occurrence, with our most inquisitive anatomists."

Bartlett said also:

"The prudence and sagacity of Washington, which are as easily traced in the archives of science, as in the cabinet or field, instituted the first medical examinations in this state, by the appointment of censors, to ascertain the qualifications of the surgeons, and mates of the army."<sup>1</sup> "The establishment of military hospitals afforded extensive opportunities for observations and experiments; important operations in surgery were rendered familiar; whilst the diseases and casualties of camps were constantly occurring. Anatomy was greatly improved by a frequent inspection, without fear of detection of the organs of the human body; physiology was more accurately comprehended, and a laudable spirit of inquiry was assiduously cultivated."

In 1774 attempts were made by a combination of medical students to obtain a more accurate knowledge of anatomy than could be afforded by books and engravings; but "their progress was greatly retarded by the danger of discovery, which at that period, might have been fatal to their future usefulness." Nothing further is known of this society. We do know that John Warren gave courses of lectures on anatomy in the winter of 1780 that were well attended. As Bartlett said, the Revolution had opened a new field for medical investigation; the army collected the best medical men from all parts of the country and promoted social intercourse; Washington had instituted in this state the first medical examinations for candidates for practice; the establishment of military hospitals afforded extensive opportunities for observations and ex-

<sup>1</sup> Josiah Bartlett was himself a "Hospital Mate."

periments; a branch of the hospital department was continued at Boston with peculiar advantages to students in medicine.

Many of the thirty-one founders of our medical society had been educated abroad, where at this time the study of medicine had been stimulated by such events as the discovery of the true function of the lymphatics, involving William Hunter and John Hunter in pamphlet controversies with the Munros. Haller had demonstrated in his laboratory Glisson's hypothesis that contractility in an excised muscle is the specific property of all muscular tissue, and that sensibility is an exclusive property of nervous tissue, views that were maintained for his pupils by Robert Whytt of Edinburgh. William Hunter had founded a school of anatomy in Great Windmill Street, London, in 1770, and had described retroversion of the uterus; the next year John Hunter published the first complete treatise on the teeth; in 1773 the Medical Society of London was founded; in 1777 Lavoisier had described the exchange of gases in respiration and in 1779 Pott had described the deformity and paralysis resulting from spinal caries, while in 1780 the University of Oxford had established the chair of clinical medicine. Medicine was studied in America by the apprenticeship system at that time as there were only two medical schools in the country, those in Philadelphia and in New York, physicians going to Europe for a finishing, if their means permitted. To acquire the views of the foreign teachers, to bring them home and spread them abroad was the work of the eminent men of the profession. For a long time the advanced scholars received the finer touches to their training in the countries where medical learning had flourished for many a day. According to Francis R. Packard (*History of Medicine in the United States to the Year 1800*), between the years 1758 and 1788 there were sixty-three American medical graduates in Edinburgh. Even in recent times it was thought necessary to visit the Continent for a finishing in medicine. A new country could not be expected to furnish the best in scholarship, for most of the energy of its inhabitants was expended in getting a living from a scanty soil in a harsh climate.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was incorporated in the year 1780. Its charter resembles the charter of the Massachusetts Medical Society in wording and arrangement. According to the Act of Incorporation as printed in the *Memoirs of the Academy* (Centennial volume, 1882, vol. XI, Part I, page 33) the



following eight men were to be found among the sixty-two incorporators of the Academy and the thirty-one founders of the Massachusetts Medical Society: Edward Augustus Holyoke, Salem; Ebenezer Hunt, Northampton; Charles Jarvis, Boston; Joseph Orne, Salem; Oliver Prescott, Groton; Micaijah Sawyer, Newburyport; John Barnard Swett, Marblehead; Cotton Tufts, Weymouth. As showing a close relationship between the Academy and the Society it may be mentioned that John Warren, Boston, was elected a fellow of the Academy, August 22, 1781, so that he was connected with the Academy before the incorporation of the Society, which was effected November 1, 1781.

David Cobb, Taunton, one of the incorporators of the Academy, became a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1786; Joshua Fisher, Beverly, joined the Society July 18, 1782 and the Academy, April 1, 1784; Aaron Dexter, Boston, an incorporator of the Society, became a member of the Academy August 25, 1784; Nathaniel Walker Appleton, Boston, incorporator and first recording secretary of the Society, and William Baylies, Dighton, another incorporator, joined the Academy May 29, 1789; Samuel Danforth, Boston, joined the Academy December 2, 1789; Thomas Welsh, Boston, incorporator, treasurer, corresponding secretary, vice-president, May 26, 1795; Benjamin Waterhouse, Cambridge, on the same date; Isaac Rand, Senior, incorporator, Boston, August 24, 1796. During the early years of the existence of the two societies they occupied the same meeting-places and worked in harmony, as we shall see later on. Therefore we are justified in concluding that the Academy had a formative influence on the Society in its start and in the first years.

At this point it may be well to sketch what we know about the founders of our society and to jot down any facts bearing on their active connection with the making. These, it may be said, are all too few. Probably, at the time, the continued existence of such an organization was a doubtful proposition in the minds of many. The optimist saw the great society that has lasted and increased in usefulness for a hundred and forty years; the conservative felt that it could not survive the bickerings and dissensions common to all assemblages, especially of those in the professions. Be that as it may there are not many recorded facts concerning the drawing and the presentation of the bill incorporating the society; why it was drawn, and who drew it. Lloyd introduced it into the Legis-



lature. Careful search, conducted by experts, has been made of the newspapers of the day and of the archives at the State House, with results that will be noted.

According to the charter of the society as contained in the act which passed the Legislature, November 1, 1781, the following were the incorporators:

Appleton, Nathaniel Walker.....	Boston	Orne, Joseph.....	Salem
Baylies, William.....	Dighton	Pecker, James.....	Boston
Curtis, Benjamin.....	Boston	Prescott, Oliver.....	Groton
Danforth, Samuel.....	Boston	Pynchon, Charles.....	Springfield
Dexter, Aaron.....	Boston	Rand, Isaac.....	Cambridge
Erving, Shirley.....	Portland	Rand, Isaac, Junior.....	Boston
Frink, John.....	Rutland	Sawyer, Micajah.....	Newburyport
Gardner, Joseph.....	Boston	Sprague, John.....	Dedham
Holten, Samuel.....	Danvers	Stockbridge, Charles.....	Scituate
Holyoke, Edward Augustus.....	Salem	Swett, John Barnard, Newburyport	
Hunt, Ebenezer.....	Northampton	Tufts, Cotton.....	Weymouth
Jarvis, Charles.....	Boston	Warren, John.....	Boston
Kast, Thomas.....	Boston	Welsh, Thomas.....	Boston
Kellogg, Giles Crouch.....	Hadley	Whipple, Joseph.....	Boston
Linn, John.....	Boston	Whiting, William, Great Barrington	
Lloyd, James.....	Boston		

This list contains thirty-one names. Investigation of the archives at the State House shows in the Journal of the House, May 11, 1781, this entry, "A Bill entitled An Act to incorporate certain Physicians by the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society [was] read a first time & Saturday 10 o'clock A M assigned for Second reading of s<sup>d</sup> Bill." No further reference to the bill, however, appears in the records of the session. The index entry to the reference in the Journal is as follows: "Mass. Medical Society, Bill to incorporate (on petition of J. Lloyd et al<sup>s</sup>).\" Unfortunately the petition which accompanied the bill has not been preserved.

According to the House Journal for the legislative year of 1781, the bill (revived in some unexplained manner) had a second reading June 6, 1781. On June 7 the bill was read a third time and ordered to lie. September 15 it was again taken up, read a fourth time, and passed to be engrossed. September 17, Hon. Mr. Baker brought the bill down from the Senate, passed to be engrossed as amended. The House again read it and concurred with the action of the Senate. October 30 an amendment to the bill was proposed by the House, accepted by the Senate, and the bill finally enacted on November 1. I am indebted to Mr. Albert P. Langtry, Secre-

tary of the Commonwealth, for the above information. All that we know took place between May 11, 1781 and November 1 of the same year, is contained in the above statement. Why the bill was such a long time in its passage we do not know, nor can we understand, at this distance, what the amendment of October 30 was. The original bill of May 11 has been preserved and a photostat copy is reproduced with this history. The list of names in paragraph two of the original bill contains the following fourteen names, all of the men being residents of Boston: James Pecker, James Lloyd, Joseph Gardner, Samuel Danforth, Isaac Rand, Charles Jarvis, Thomas Kast, John Warren, John Linn, Benjamin Curtis, Thomas Welsh, Nathaniel Walker Appleton, Joseph Whipple, Shirley Erving. On the original bill the list is crossed through and we may suppose that the new list of thirty-one names was added, perhaps October 30, when the amendment was made by the House. The supposition may be entertained that a society of local, i.e., Boston fellows was not what was desired, therefore the enlarged list of incorporators that appeared in the act as passed, whereby different parts of the state were represented and, at the same time, eminent men in medicine were included among the founders. It is to be noted here that the original bill contained a provision for a board of five members to examine as to the sale of "drugs, medicines and other apothecaries' wares that are defective and not fit and convenient to be administered." The board was given power to enter premises, confiscate, destroy or sell such wares as they found defective. The clauses are found now to be crossed off and did not appear in the perfected bill of November 1. Very likely such authority would have aroused opposition from the apothecaries of the time and might have endangered the passage of the bill. Here again our imaginations are called into play.

Further study of this original bill that was signed by fourteen physicians of Boston shows an exact correspondence, word for word, with the act as passed by the Legislature, November 1, except an amendment in next to the last paragraph as to "said real estate," which was adopted during a reading of the bill in the Senate, September 17, 1781, and the addition of the last paragraph of the completed act, that defined the conditions for calling the first meeting and authorized and directed Edward Augustus Hol-yoke to fix the time and place of the first meeting for organization.



The House of Representatives took final action on the bill, October 30, 1781 and the Senate, November 1. On that day Governor John Hancock signed his name and the act became law.

In Dr. Ephraim Eliot's account of the physicians of Boston at this time, printed from his manuscript, in Volume VII of the Massachusetts Historical Society's Proceedings, pages 177 to 184, is to be found, besides short descriptions of the physicians listed according to their residences in the town geographically, the following statement:

"Thomas Bulfinch had good share of genteel practice and lived in good style, kept a chariot, was tender & affectionate & greatly loved. He declined joining the Medical Society. Curtis, Warren, Jarvis, Gardner, Whipple, Appleton, Welsh, Lloyd, Danforth, Rand, Kast, were those who petitioned for incorporation of Mass. Med. Soc. The plan was enlarged and many eminent men in different parts of the State were added. First meeting in 1781 or '82 and chose officers, and have regularly done so at stated times since."

Ephraim Eliot, son of the Rev. John Eliot, D.D., author of the "Biographical Dictionary," 1809, graduated from Harvard in the class of 1780, began to study medicine with Dr. Isaac Rand, one of the founders, in August of that year, and died in September, 1827, at the age of sixty-five. He was for many years a well known druggist and had published "Historical Notices of the New North Religious Society, with Anecdotes of Rev. Andrew Eliot and John Eliot," 1822. He was a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society. His statements, formed from first hand knowledge, — the manuscript is dated "1823"; he must have been intimate with all the physicians of the town, being a druggist, — are confirmatory of the conclusion drawn from the original list of names of the incorporators in the bill that was filed in the Legislature on May 11, 1781, namely, that Boston physicians were responsible for the bill. His list corresponds with the list in the bill except that he omitted the names of Pecker, Linn and Erving, an omission that may be readily accounted for, in the case of so many names, where the information had come to him by word of mouth.

A glance at the ages of these incorporators will prove of interest and perhaps surprise us at their youth. Here they are: Pecker, 57; Lloyd, 53; Gardner, 53; Danforth, 41; Rand, 38; Jarvis, 33; Kast, 31; Warren, 28; Linn, 31; Curtis, 29; Welsh, 30; Appleton, 26; Whipple, 25; Erving, 22. It would seem as if the names had been entered in the bill in the order of seniority, so far as the ages could be determined off-hand. The average age of the fourteen

is 35½ years, the oldest 57 and the youngest 22. Eleven of these men were graduates of Harvard College and one, Shirley Erving, received an honorary A. M. from Harvard in 1810. Ephraim Eliot says that the number of physicians in Boston had been diminished on account of the war. Many had been Royalists. The inhabitants of the town in 1781 numbered about twelve thousand.

It would appear that the Massachusetts Medical Society had its inception in the Boston Medical Society; all of the fourteen incorporators except one, John Linn, were members of that organization, which had been founded in May of the previous year and met at the Green Dragon Tavern. According to Ephraim Eliot it made a fee table, which when amended and altered has lasted until modern times; it took an active part in founding the Harvard Medical School and it participated in the medical affairs of the time that touched on the public. Among the Warren papers has been preserved this vote of the Boston Medical Society, November 30, 1781:

"Present, The President, Dr. Pecker, Dr. Gardner, Dr. Danforth, Dr. Rand, Dr. Jarvis, Dr. Warren, Dr. Curtis, Dr. Welsh, Dr. Appleton, Dr. Whipple. Voted: That Dr. John Warren be desired to demonstrate a course of anatomical lectures the ensuing winter. A true copy for the minutes. N. W. Appleton C. Y. Sec'y."

Warren had given a course the previous winter at the military hospital. According to Eliot there was some jealousy of Warren in the Boston Medical Society. His lectures were a success, notwithstanding; the medical school was started and so was the medical society. In the year 1784 the Boston Medical Society published a protest against setting up a public infirmary in Boston for the benefit of the new medical school in Cambridge, in accordance with the petition of the Corporation of the University to the General Court for that purpose. It is to be regretted that the records of such an important society have not been preserved. From the scattered bits we have, the inference is strong that, made up of the active and leading men of the time, it had a great influence on medical progress.

Whether the "Boston District Medical Society" of which the manuscript minutes from 1809 to 1813 are preserved, may be regarded as a continuation of the Boston Medical Society is not clear. The question is discussed in the chapter on the District Medical Societies. Here follow the biographies of the fourteen

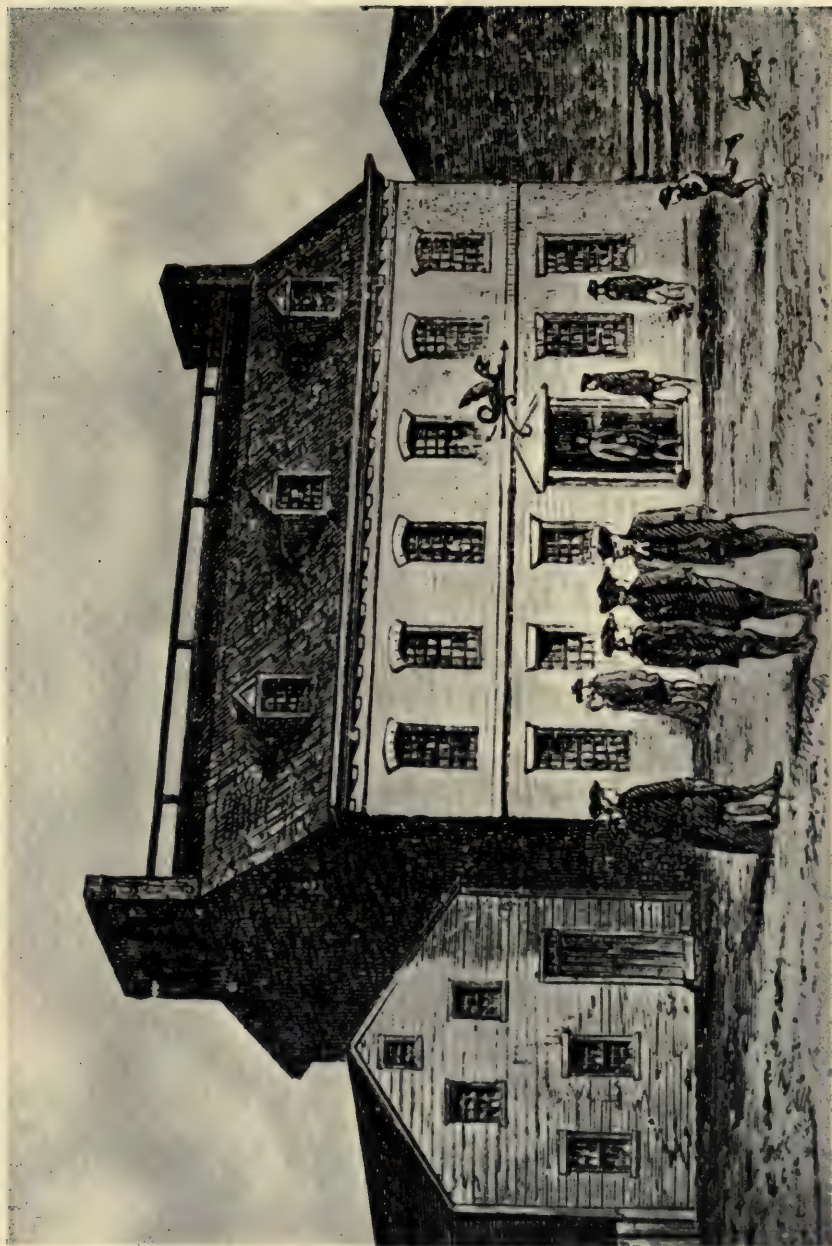


founders, written from the scanty facts that were to be found by careful search in many places. In looking them over we must keep in mind the probable influence of the Boston Medical Society. In this connection it may be illuminating to quote what Ephraim Eliot has to say about one of the meetings of that society:

"One night Dr. Rand returned home from one of his professional meetings and, addressing himself to me, he said, 'Eliot, that Warren is an artful man, and will get to windward of us all. He has made a proposition to the club that, as there are nearly a dozen pupils studying in town, there should be an incipient medical school instituted here for their benefit, and has nominated Danforth to read on materia medica and chemistry; proposed that I should read on the theory and practice of physic, and some suitable person on anatomy and surgery. He was at once put up for the latter branches; and after a little maiden coyness, agreed to commence a course. . . .'"

From this we see that suggestions and stimuli to progress were emanating from this club of young physicians.

Some of these founders had had foreign training, others military and naval training, some had had the experience given by public service and one or two were scholars. James Lloyd had served two years as dresser at Guy's Hospital in London and had studied under Hunter and Smellie; he was the chief practitioner of the day and presented the petition for a charter to the General Court. Thomas Kast had been in the British Navy and had lived and studied in London for two years. John Warren, the leading medical man of the time, though only twenty-eight years old, had been surgeon with the Continental Army for two years and then was senior surgeon to the military hospitals around Boston; he had lectured on anatomy and, as we have just seen, was planning for the creation of the Harvard Medical School. Thomas Welsh had been an army surgeon throughout the war; Charles Jarvis, besides being in the service, had had a public career in the Legislature. Benjamin Curtis had been a surgeon of the Revolution and was a practitioner of note; unfortunately he died young, three years after the founding. Thomas Welsh was surgeon throughout the war, was attached to the Marine Hospital and was quarantine physician. Appleton was of a literary turn of mind, as shown by his letters to Eliphalet Pearson. At one time he was secretary of the Boston Medical Society; he was methodical and had a genius for secretarial duties. Isaac Rand was a scholar besides being a prominent practitioner. All but three of our founders, Gardner, Linn and Whipple, were graduates of Harvard College or received honorary



GREEN DRAGON TAVERN OFF UNION STREET, A MEETING PLACE OF THE FOUNDERS

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degrees from that seat of learning. Although Pecker, Lloyd, Danforth, Kast and Rand sympathized with the British during the war, at its close they were active as founders.

Of the additional incorporators summoned to the ranks of the fourteen to make the thirty-one in the bill as enacted in November, 1781 we must mention John Barnard Swett, who worked under Cullen in Scotland for three years, was fleet surgeon in the British Navy, and finished his medical education in the hospitals of England and France; returning to America in 1778 he enlisted as surgeon in the Continental Army and accompanied General Sullivan's expedition to Rhode Island. Oliver Prescott was a brigadier and major general of militia. Samuel Holten was a member of the Legislature from Danvers in 1768, holding legislative or judicial office for the rest of his life, serving on the federal convention of the United States in 1777 and in the Continental Congress; after giving up the practice of medicine in 1775 he was "judge of the court of general sessions of the peace and justice of the quorum," as the title went. He attended early meetings and was a councilor. Cotton Tufts was a member of the constitutional convention and wrote "spirited and patriotic instructions against the Stamp Act" for the representatives of Weymouth in 1765. This was the time when he was planning to found a state medical society, as we have noted. John Frink was a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention and a justice of the peace. At that time there were not so many such officers as there are today. Oliver Prescott was a judge of probate for the County of Middlesex and a member of the War Board; William Baylies represented Dighton in the Legislature, was a member of the state convention that adopted the Federal Constitution, a judge of the court of common pleas and, for a long time, register of probate, while he had the distinction of being a member of three Provincial Congresses.

We can understand that the addition of such able men from different parts of the state added much to the prestige of the new society, enlarged its scope, and, at the same time, provided good material with which to advance its interests when once started.

We find it a bit difficult today to picture the Boston of 1781. It is known that the town had about twelve thousand inhabitants. At the first census of 1791 the number of people was 18,320 and the number of houses 2,376. As noted elsewhere, there was a

substantial growth of the town for the next twenty years after 1791. It is fortunate that there have been preserved the letters of sympathetic Frenchmen who visited the city in the years immediately following the Revolution; among them are letters written by Abbé Robin, a chaplain under Count Rochambeau, his first letter being dated at Boston in June, 1781. He speaks of the distance from Boston to Cambridge as being seven miles, and that calls to our attention the fact that it was necessary to travel over Boston Neck to Roxbury, passing Paul Dudley's parting stone, and keeping on through Brookline and Brighton across the Great Bridge, where the Anderson Bridge stands today, in order to reach the university city, for there was no other bridge across the Charles until 1786, when the Charles River bridge to Charlestown was opened to travel. The West Boston or Cambridge bridge did not become an entity until 1793, so that in 1781 the traveler who wished to visit Cambridge had to take the ferry to Charlestown or make a long land journey over the Neck. Let us quote the Abbé Robin as he was approaching Boston:

"A happy change of wind and weather brought us safe into the harbour of Boston. From this road, which is interspersed with several agreeable little Islands, we discovered through the woods, on the side towards the west, a magnificent prospect of houses, built on a curved line, and extending afterwards in a semicircle above half a degree. This was Boston. . . . a superb wharf has been carried out above two thousand feet into the sea [Long Wharf] and is broad enough for stores and workshops through the whole of its extent; it communicates at right angles with the principal street of the town [Washington Street], which is both large and spacious, and bends in a curve parallel to the harbour; this street is ornamented with elegant buildings, for the most part two or three stories high, and many other streets terminate in this, communicating with it on each side. The form and construction of the houses would surprise an European eye; they are built of brick and wood, not in the clumsy and melancholy taste of our ancient European towns, but regularly and well provided with windows and doors . . . there are nineteen churches for the several sects here, all of them convenient, and several finished with taste and elegance, especially those of the Presbyterians and the Church of England. . . . Their University is at Cambridge, seven miles from Boston, on the banks of the Charles River, in a beautiful and healthy situation. There are four colleges all of brick, and of a regular form. The English troops made use of them for barracks in 1775, and forced the professors and students to turn out. The library contains more than 5000 volumes; and they have an excellent printing house, well furnished, that was originally intended for a college for the native indian."

It is hard to realize that travel for considerable distances was entirely by stage coach and by sailing vessels in those days. The





doctor made his rounds on horseback or on foot. It took fifty-four hours of hard travel to reach New York; the stages, starting at five A.M., according to the Massachusetts Register and Fleet's Pocket Almanack, had a custom of making almost continuous trips, taking only time enough for one brief rest, and a change of horses when necessary. The only lighting was by oil lamps and tallow and spermaceti candles. Today the ophthalmologists shudder with horror at the thought of the insufficient diffused and local light for reading, yet our ancestors transmitted to us pretty good eyesight, in spite of their handicaps. With slops poured into the gutters, no running water, milk and food kept in cool cellars in the absence of ice, the strong constitutions came through without sanitary laws; the feeble went to the wall.

Most of the Boston medical men who were interested in the new state medical society lived near at hand to the meeting place so that no considerable time and effort had to be expended in attendance; nevertheless it was thought best to hold both a morning and an afternoon session of the society, as we shall see in the next chapter. Supposedly the fellows from out of town brought their lunches or dropped in at some friend's house or at a tavern for the mid-day meal.

According to the first Boston Directory, published in 1789, there were in that year just twenty-five "Physicians and Surgeons" in the town. In the catalogue of the Massachusetts Medical Society for 1789 the total number of fellows was sixty-seven, sixteen being credited to Boston.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF THE FOURTEEN FOUNDERS

ARRANGED IN ORDER OF SENIORITY, AS THEY APPEARED IN THE BILL FOR INCORPORATING THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY WHEN READ FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE LEGISLATURE, MAY 11, 1781.

JAMES PECKER (1724-1794), the son of Dr. James Pecker, of Haverhill, at one time captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, was born in Haverhill, March 1, 1724, and was graduated from Harvard College with the class of 1743, receiving the degree of A. M., as was the custom then. He settled in Boston, probably serving an apprenticeship in medicine first. The Minutes of the Selectmen of the Town of Boston state that February 1, 1764 Dr. Pecker appeared before the board and acquainted them "that all Mrs. Dommitts' children which had been sick of the small pox, were now well and free from that disorder." Thereupon the board ordered the house



and belongings disinfected. He reported again on smallpox to the board later in that month. With James Lloyd, John Sprague, Silvester Gardiner, Benjamin Church, Joseph Warren, Joseph Gardner, Charles Pyncheon and seventeen other physicians he made an agreement with the board on April 19, 1764 that he would not inoculate for smallpox after the time limit set by the selectmen.

During the Revolution Dr. Pecker was a Loyalist and his arrest was ordered by the Council of Massachusetts in April, 1776.

In 1781 he was a member of the Boston Medical Society and on the organization of the Massachusetts Medical Society he was made the first vice-president. With the exception of one meeting he attended all the meetings during his term of service, 1782 to 1785, and presided, in the absence of the president, at both the meetings of the society and the council, thereby contributing a goodly share to the success of the new society. In the year 1789 he lived on Hanover Street at the corner of Friend, according to the Boston Directory of that date. He died in his house on Middle Street at the North End, and was buried February 11, 1794, as noted in the *Independent Chronicle*, at the age of seventy.

Towards the close of life he suffered with a stone in the bladder that was successfully removed by Dr. Rand.

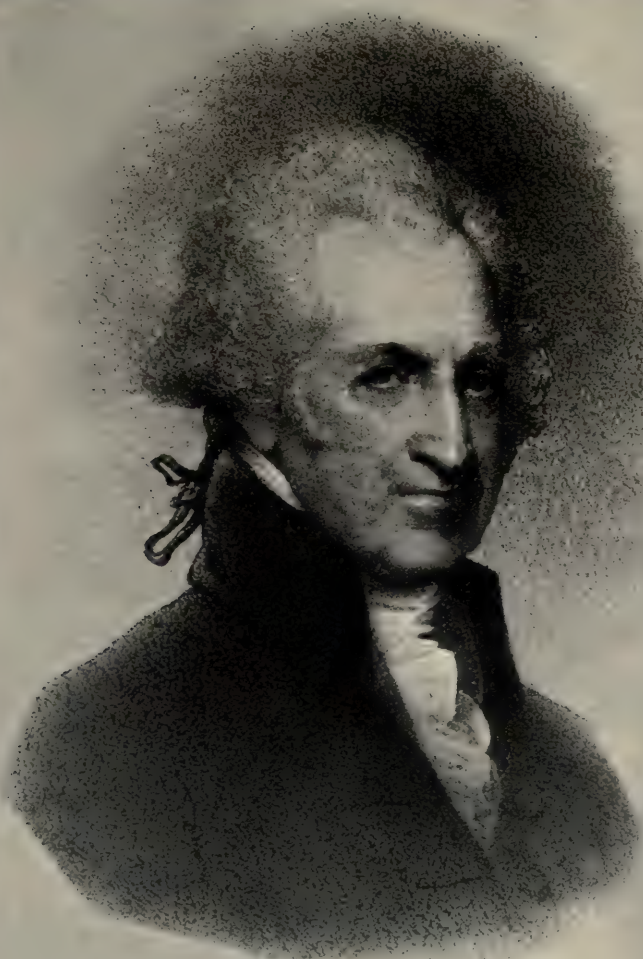
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JAMES LLOYD (1728-1810) was one of the leading practitioners of Boston. According to the Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, under date of May 11, 1781, Dr. J. Lloyd *et alii* presented a petition with a bill to incorporate the Massachusetts Medical Society, the bill being read for the first time that day. The petition having been lost we do not know who were joined with him, but we have a record of the fourteen whose names are in this bill.

J. M. Toner tells us (Address on "Medical Biography," Philadelphia, 1876, 23) Dr. Lloyd of Boston was the first surgeon in America to use ligatures instead of searing wounds with the actual cautery, and to use the double flap in amputation, after the method of Cheselden. He also performed lithotomy and was the first in Massachusetts to devote himself wholly to obstetrics. For nearly sixty years he was the great physician and surgeon of New England and a warm advocate of inoculation for smallpox.

He was the youngest of ten children born to Henry Lloyd, a Boston merchant, son of James Lloyd, who came from Somersetshire, England, about 1670. James was born at Oyster Bay, Long Island, March 24, 1728, and educated in Stratford and New Haven, Connecticut. When seventeen he began his medical studies with Dr. William Clark, of Boston, and after five years sailed to London, where he spent two years as dresser at Guy's Hospital. While in London he attended lectures by William Hunter and William Smellie, then returned to Boston in 1752, primed with all the latest knowledge of midwifery and surgery, and shortly, because of his attainments, acquired a large practice. He was for some time a surgeon at Castle William and in 1764 was an advocate of general inoculation. Having acquired from Smellie's scientific method of teaching obstetrics a new conception of that science as a distinct branch, he practised and taught midwifery, a pioneer obstetrician in Boston. During the Revolution he was a moderate Royalist. He lived on Tremont Street, kept

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M. Peck Del. J. C. Smith Sculp.

1794

JAMES LLOYD, M.D.

— E. 80 —

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"a genteel equipage" and entertained freely. He was an Episcopalian and attended Trinity Church.

Harvard conferred the honorary degree of M. D. on him in 1790. After the incorporation of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1781 he was a councilor, and was in attendance at the early meetings of both society and council.

Dr. Lloyd died March 14, 1810, leaving a son James, who graduated from Harvard College in 1787 and was a United States Senator.

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JOSEPH GARDNER (1727-1788), a son of Rev. John Gardner, was born at Stow, Massachusetts, May 24, 1727. We hear of him first as a practitioner of medicine in 1763 when he joined with Bulfinch, Joseph Warren and Perkins in an attempt to establish a smallpox hospital at Point Shirley in Boston Harbor, during the smallpox epidemic of that year. Whether he was present at Gardner's tavern on Boston Neck in 1765 to plan with Cotton Tufts for the formation of a medical society we are not sure, as it may have been another Gardner who was there. The Selectmen's minutes of the town of Boston under date of July 27, 1767 have this entry: "Dr. Joseph Gardner presented to the Selectmen His Account of Medicine & Attendance of the Province poor from June, 1766 to May 25, 1767. amtg to £164., 7.. after certain deduction had been made of Moses Godfrey's Bill, he not being One of the Province poor. It was then passd & certified by the Selectmen in the usual form." In the year 1776 Gardner was a representative to the General Court. He was preceptor to John Homans and Charles Jarvis. When the Massachusetts Medical Society had been founded Dr. Gardner was on the first board of councilors and attended all the early meetings. In 1788, when serving his fifth term as censor, he was on the board that examined the first two graduates of the new Harvard Medical School, according to Ephraim Eliot. They were John Fleet and George Holmes Hall, pupils of John Warren. At the first examination the older censors had quizzed the applicants pretty severely, but at a reëxamination, held the Saturday before Commencement, they passed them.

Ephraim Eliot writes of Gardner: "He was employed both as a physician and surgeon, probably more than any other gentleman in the profession. He pretended to look upon learning as superfluous; that the bedside was the only school for a physician; but he *did* study, and was a more learned man than he chose to appear. He was witty and satirical and very greatly esteemed."

He died at his house on Marlborough Street, now Washington Street, October 20, 1788, according to a notice in the *Independent Chronicle*.

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SAMUEL DANFORTH (1740-1827) was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in August, 1740. He was the son of Samuel Danforth (Harvard College, 1715), probate judge of the county of Middlesex, who married a Miss Symmes, and he was descended from Samuel Danforth, the elder, who came to Roxbury from England in 1634, and was second on the list of fellows of Harvard College, 1650-1654. Seven Danforths were in the college catalogue from the year 1634 to 1758.

Samuel's early life was passed in Cambridge. He graduated from Harvard in 1758 and studied medicine with Dr. Rand, the elder, either in Charlestown

or Boston. In 1790 Harvard conferred the honorary M. D. upon him. It is probable that his medical opinions were influenced by Dr. Philip Gottfried Kast. He began to practise in Weston, Massachusetts, but soon removed to Newport, Rhode Island. He returned to Boston in a year or two, married a Miss Watts, of Chelsea, Massachusetts, and settled in Boston. During the Revolution he was a Royalist and at one time his wife and three children were obliged to take refuge with her father. After the evacuation of Boston by the British, Dr. Danforth was treated with some harshness by the inhabitants, but in time they forgave all and he acquired a large and lucrative practice.

He was an original member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and its president from 1795 to 1798. A member of the first board of councilors he attended all the early meetings of both society and council, serving also on important committees. He made no claim to a knowledge of surgery, but was a resourceful practitioner of medicine. His manners were polished but not formal, and his carriage attractive yet commanding. He used few remedies and those only whose effects were obvious and powerful. Calomel, opium, ipecacuanha and peruvian bark were his favorites. On one occasion he was called to visit a number of persons who had been hurt by the fall of a house frame and on arriving found another practitioner engaged in bleeding the injured. "Doctor," said the latter, "I am doing your work for you." "Then," said Dr. Danforth, "pour the blood back into the veins of these men."

He died November 16, 1827, at the age of eighty-seven, in his house in Bowdoin Square. His portrait by Gilbert Stuart is in Sprague Hall in the Boston Medical Library.

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ISAAC RAND (1743-1822), of Boston did much to establish the art of Obstetrics in that town, he helped organize the Massachusetts Medical Society, and he acted as preceptor to students of medicine. The son of Dr. Isaac Rand of Charlestown and his wife Margaret Damon, he first saw the light April 27, 1743. Entering Harvard College in 1757, he graduated in 1761, making a journey to Newfoundland in his senior year as a part of an expedition sent by the government to observe the transit of Venus. The study of medicine was begun with his father and continued with Dr. James Lloyd, Boston's first obstetrician, and after the prescribed three years' novitiate, young Rand settled in practice in Boston. He was said to be a good scholar, translated Greek and Latin with facility and was an omnivorous reader. At the beginning of the Revolution his sentiments were with the Tories; he took no active part, did not leave the town, and finally changed his first opinion, that the efforts of the colonists to free themselves were premature, to a more sympathetic attitude.

In 1778 with John Warren and Lemuel Hayward he established a smallpox hospital in Brookline, where later William Aspinwall inoculated. Rand's name is among the original fourteen petitioners to the General Court in 1781 for the incorporation of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in the subsequent welfare of which he took a deep interest. He was on the first board of "Counsellors," read papers before the society and served it in minor offices until 1798, when he was elected president, an office he held until 1804. As a pupil of Dr. Lloyd he assisted in taking the practice of obstetrics from the midwives and placing it with the physicians; to perfect himself in the art he visited Europe, giving



up a very large practice in order to make the journey, and returning gave himself largely to an obstetrical career. In 1810 Dr. Rand was elected an overseer of Harvard College, at a time when that body consisted of only three members in addition to fifteen Congregational ministers, the governor and the state officers. He served on the board for five years and held membership in the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Academy and a corresponding membership in the London Medical Society. In 1799 Harvard conferred on him its honorary M. D.

In later years Dr. Rand devoted himself to a study of theology and to reading. He died in Boston, December 11, 1822.

A son, the third Isaac Rand (1769-1819), graduated at Harvard in 1787, joined the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1800, and practised medicine in Boston, but did not survive his father.

The writings of Isaac Rand, senior, are: "A Case of Emphysema Successfully Treated by the Operation," *Trans. Mass. Med. Soc'y*, vol. i, series i. p. 66; "Observations on the Hydrocephalus Internus," *idem*, p. 69; "Observations on the Phthisis Pulmonalis and the Use of Digitalis Purpurea in the Treatment of that Disease; with Practical Remarks on the use of the Tepid Bath," *idem*, p. 129, the Annual Discourse before the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1804, the first oration to be given. It was delivered in the year after the reorganization of the society.

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CHARLES JARVIS (1748-1807), the son of Colonel Leonard and Sarah Church Jarvis, was born in Boston, October 26, 1748. He was a Latin School boy and a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1766. After studying medicine with Nathaniel Perkins and then with Joseph Gardner, one of our founders, he went to England to finish his medical education. Settling, on his return, in Common Street, Boston, he enjoyed a successful practice, being reputed to be not accustomed to give much medicine and a conservative in treatment. Dr. Ephraim Eliot says of him: "He stood high in rank, and deservedly; his practice would doubtless have been large if he had not chosen to devote himself to political life, which prevented him attending to his profession as was desired. The style of a gentleman which marked his conduct in the chamber of the sick, and the tender sympathy which he evinced when attending to his surgical practice, endeared him in a peculiar manner to his employers."

Dr. Jarvis was a handsome man of large frame. He had what would now be called a good stage presence, a well modulated voice of considerable power, and was rated as an impressive speaker. He was accustomed to pause in his eloquence while holding an audience under control in Faneuil Hall or in the Legislature, when he had said something which he thought impressive, and look about to see its effect; he seldom failed to gain applause. In the Legislature they gave him the sobriquet of "the Bald Eagle of the Boston seat," for he had a dome-like head bereft of hair, a prominent aquiline nose and piercing eyes.

In 1781 Jarvis was a member of the Boston Medical Society; in 1783 he was a member of the committee appointed to consider combining the celebration of the Boston Massacre on March 5, with that of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. In accordance with the report of this committee



Dr. John Warren gave the first Fourth of July oration in that year, Dr. Thomas Welsh, both founders of the Massachusetts Medical Society, gave the last of the Boston Massacre orations on March 5, 1783. It will be remembered that Dr. Joseph Warren had given the latter oration in the years 1772 and 1775.

During the presidency of Jefferson, Dr. Jarvis, who had espoused the Jeffersonian cause, was appointed physician and surgeon to the Marine Hospital at Charlestown, and he died there of "lung fever," November 15, 1807, fifty-nine years of age. Jarvis was an incorporator of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1780; he was one of the commissioners on the part of the Town of Boston to convey the "Governor's Pasture," as it was called, a part of the Hancock Estate, to the Commonwealth as a site for the Bulfinch Front of the State House. This was in 1795.

In 1773 Dr. Jarvis married a sister of Sir William Pepperell, who had captured Louisburg in 1756, but on the breaking out of the Revolution Jarvis refused to go to England when the Pepperell family left, preferring to remain in the land of his birth. He enjoyed considerable popularity, even though latterly a strong partisan of France, believing as he did that her success under Napoleon counted more for the rights of man than would the triumph of her allied enemies.

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THOMAS KAST (1750-1820), the son of Dr. Philip Gottfried Kast, with whom he studied medicine, was born in Boston, August 12, 1750, and graduated at Harvard in 1769. The following year he was appointed surgeon's mate of the British ship *Rose*, continuing in this position for two years; for an equal length of time he attended lectures at Guy's and St. Thomas's hospitals in London. Settling in Boston in 1774 he had a large practice in midwifery; he was said to have been the first surgeon in Boston to operate upon a femoral aneurysm. Ephraim Eliot writes: "Dr. Thomas Kast had a large practice among the lower and middle classes of people, with whom he was a great favorite. He accumulated much property, making everyone pay him something; and being an economist he turned it to much advantage." We can always trust Eliot to have an eye to the main chance and to see behind the scenes in his refreshingly frank comments on the medical men of his time. Kast was an apothecary, as well as Eliot, keeping a shop at the sign of St. Luke's Head at the corner of Hanover and Union Streets. During the Revolution he was a Royalist. Having been associated with the British during his training it is not surprising that his sympathies should have been on their side. In the year 1781 he was a member of the Boston Medical Society; after the founding of the Massachusetts Medical Society he was a constant attendant at the meetings, serving as treasurer from 1798 to 1807. He was secretary of the Boston Medical Society in 1784. In 1804 he had a severe illness and six years later visited Europe in the hope of improving his health; he returned to Boston in 1817 and died there June 20, 1820.

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JOHN WARREN<sup>1</sup> (1753-1815) was born in Roxbury, July 27, 1753, and died in Boston, Massachusetts, April 4, 1815. His ancestor, John Warren, came

<sup>1</sup> This biography is abbreviated from the biography by Dr. J. Collins Warren, in "American Medical Biographies."



fellow passenger with Governor Winthrop in the *Arabella* and arrived in Salem, June 12, 1630. Dr. Warren's father was a highly respected citizen of the town of Roxbury and added to and improved the homestead farm by the cultivation of many varieties of fruit trees. He was killed by a fall from an apple tree in October, 1755. His mother, Mary Warren, the daughter of Dr. Samuel Stevens of Roxbury, was a woman of great intelligence and piety, survived her husband forty-five years, and died in the paternal mansion in 1800. John was the younger brother of Dr. Joseph Warren, killed at Bunker Hill. After graduating from Harvard in 1771 he immediately began the study of medicine with his brother Joseph, some twelve years his senior, having already while in college developed a strong taste for anatomy. With the exception of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, then still in its infancy, and King's College, in New York, there were no medical schools in this country at that time and he was obliged to be content to obtain his medical education by serving an apprenticeship with an active practitioner, after the manner of the day.

An opening for practice was discovered in the neighboring town of Salem under the patronage of Dr. Holyoke. Warren accordingly established himself in Salem as a practitioner in 1773.

During his early practice political events were developing rapidly. On December 18, 1773, the tea was thrown overboard in Boston harbor, and tradition has it that Warren took an active part in this demonstration. About this time he joined a militia regiment in Salem, commanded by Colonel Pickering, and became its surgeon. The following year we find him addressing the mechanics of New York in his capacity as chairman of a committee of Boston mechanics, urging them to take no part in the construction of the fortifications of Boston. Towards the close of the battle of Lexington on June 19, 1775, Col. Pickering's regiment arrived at Winter Hill, Somerville, but took no active part in the engagement. Warren was present on that occasion. Encamping for the night his regiment returned to Salem the next day. After the battle of Bunker Hill he left Salem at two o'clock the following morning and at Medford received the news of his brother Joseph's death. While seeking on the battlefield for his brother's body, he received a thrust from the bayonet of a sentinel, the scar of which he bore through life. After learning the fate of his brother he volunteered as a private in the ranks of the American Army. He was, however, assigned to the care of the wounded. On July 3 Washington arrived at Cambridge and the organization of the army was begun. After passing an examination before a medical board, Warren received the appointment of senior surgeon to the hospital established at Cambridge. Here he remained during the siege of Boston. After the evacuation he was one of the first surgeons to enter the city and made a report on the discovery of arsenic mixed with medicines left by the enemy. When the army left Cambridge the general hospital was transferred to New York, for which city he departed on May 11, 1776. There he was appointed senior surgeon of the hospital established at Long Island. He remained in the army until July, 1777, and during this year gained much experience in dealing with dysentery and what was probably typhoid fever. He was with the army at Trenton and narrowly escaped capture after the battle of Princeton.

Many changes having taken place in the meantime in the organization of



the medical staff of the army and Warren having suffered from illness brought on by the hardships of the campaign, he applied for and received permission to return to Boston in April, 1777. At the time extensive military preparations were going on in Massachusetts. A hospital was therefore needed in the city itself and one was accordingly established at the corner of Milton and Spring Streets near the site of the present Massachusetts General Hospital, and on July 1, 1777, Warren was established as senior surgeon of the General Hospital in Boston, a position he held until the close of the war. This was the turning point in Warren's career. Many of the older generation of practitioners had left the city and the field was open to a younger man representing the patriotic element in the community.

On November 4, 1777, he married Abigail Collins, daughter of John Collins, afterwards governor of Rhode Island. His first residence in Boston was in a house at the corner of Avon Place and Central Court, and here he once more began to practise his profession in civil life. About this time we find him entering into a partnership with Isaac Rand and Lemuel Hayward for the formation of a hospital at Sewall's Point, Brookline, for the inoculation for smallpox and the treatment of patients attacked with that disease. He also volunteered for the Rhode Island expedition and after that campaign returned to his hospital duties and family in Boston.

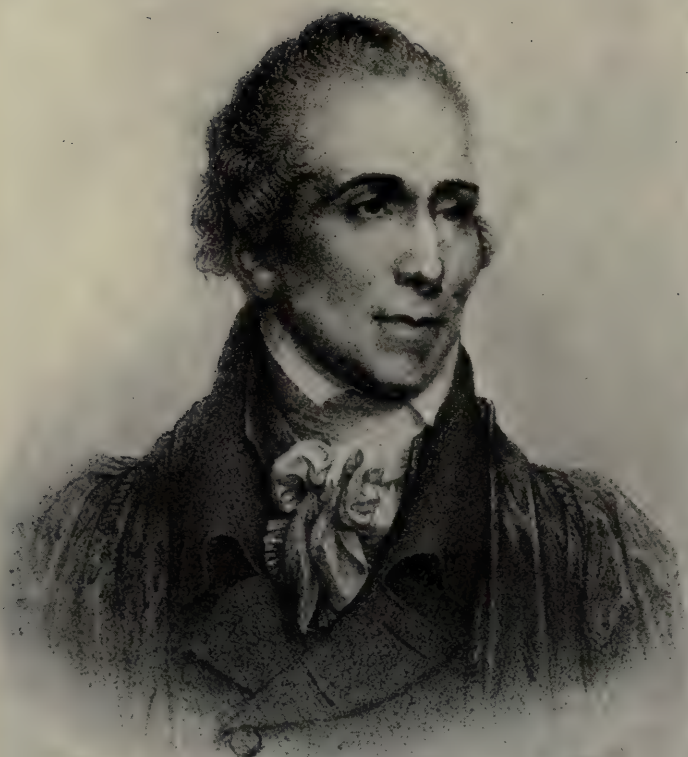
As we have seen, Warren had, while in college, developed a strong taste for the study of anatomy. He now appreciated the importance of this branch of medical science both for the practice of medicine and for surgery, and accordingly in the winter of 1780, he undertook to give a course of anatomical lectures at the hospital. His audience was composed of persons attached to the army in a medical capacity, a few medical students (probably serving apprenticeships to other practitioners), physicians of Boston and some scientific gentlemen. It was necessary to conduct these demonstrations, which were performed on the cadaver, with much privacy on account of the popular prejudice against dissection. These lectures were so successful that the members of the Boston Medical Society, an organization formed the same year (May 14, 1780) passed a vote: "That Dr. John Warren be desired to demonstrate a course of anatomical lectures the ensuing winter." This course was given publicly at the hospital and was attended by many literary and scientific men, including President Willard and members of the Harvard Corporation, as well as students from the college. A third course of demonstrations was given in 1782 at the "Molineux House" on Beacon Street near Bowdoin Street. This course was attended by the senior class at Harvard. Warren says that in addition to the schools in Philadelphia and New York, "the military hospitals of the United States furnish a large field for observation and experience in the various branches of the healing art as well as an opportunity for anatomical investigation."

Warren's efforts at teaching had brought home to the Corporation of Harvard College the needs of a medical school and accordingly at a meeting of that body held on May 16, 1782, a committee was appointed to consider the establishment of a medical professorship. Following a report of this committee on September 19 Warren was requested to draw up plans for a course of medical instruction. The first course of lectures was prepared and delivered during the winter of 1783-1784.

The lectures were first given in temporary quarters, probably in the base-



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JOHN WARREN OLD.

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ment of Harvard Hall, and in 1800 Holden Chapel was fitted up for the reception of the Medical Department. Owing to the difficulty of access to Cambridge at that time and the absence of clinical facilities, the school was transferred to Boston. Warren was successful as a lecturer and was able to hold the attention of the class through lectures which, at that day, often lasted two or three hours. His "gentlemen, remember this" was a phrase often recalled by pupils in later years.

Dr. Warren had a large private practice and soon became one of the leading surgeons of New England. He had begun his career with a considerable experience as an army surgeon and early in his professional life performed one of the first abdominal sections recorded in this country. This operation consisted in the opening and evacuation of a dermoid cyst in the left hypochondrium with recovery of the patient. A successful amputation of the shoulder joint performed at the Military Hospital, then also a novelty, helped to establish his reputation as a surgeon. According to James Jackson, his pupil, "he enjoyed the highest confidence of those around him in all branches of his profession; but it was in the practice of surgery he attained the most extensive reputation." He was cool in operating, did not hurry, and made a point of never omitting any details. He was among the first to recognize and practise the principle of the healing of wounds by first intention.

His medical practice brought him in contact with the extensive epidemics which prevailed in those days. He took a prominent part in the management of an epidemic of yellow fever which visited Boston in 1798, of which he wrote a report. In 1802 he was one of a commission to render a favorable report on the use of vaccine, which had recently been brought from Europe, "as a complete security against smallpox."

He delivered the first Boston Fourth of July oration in 1783.

Dr. Warren was a member of and participated in the formation of numerous societies which sprang into being after the Revolution. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences received its charter on the 5th of May, 1780, and Warren became a member the subsequent year. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1781 and its president from 1804 until his death. He was also one of the founders of the Boston Medical Society in 1780, which established a fee table. In 1782 he was chosen grand master of all the Massachusetts Lodges of Free Masons. He was corresponding member of the London Medical Society.

He was the father of seventeen children, the eldest of whom was Dr. John Collins Warren, and the youngest Dr. Edward Warren, his biographer.

For some years before his death he had suffered from attacks of angina and in 1811 a slight paralytic affection of the right side came on, which never entirely disappeared. He died April 4, 1815, in the full tide of his professional activities, after a short illness from pneumonia, at the age of sixty-one.

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JOHN LINN (1750-1793). Facts about the life of John Linn have been difficult to gather. He came from Pennsylvania and was a surgeon in the Revolution, being Director of Hospitals, District of Quebec, afterwards settling in practice in Boston. When the Massachusetts Medical Society had been organized Linn attended the first meeting on November 28, 1781, and he was



present at meetings held June 4, 1783 and October 15, 1783, but not again. He went to Philadelphia and died there in October, or November, 1793, at the age of forty-three, as attested by Mathew Carey's "A short account of the malignant fever lately prevalent in Philadelphia." On page 75 of the third edition of that work, Philadelphia, November 30, 1793, is this statement in Chapter XIV: "Rarely has it happened, that so large a proportion of the gentlemen of the faculty have sunk beneath the labors of their very dangerous profession, as on this occasion. In little more than a month, exclusive of medical students, no less than ten physicians have been swept off, doctors Hutchinson, Morris, Linn, Pennington, Dodds, Johnson, Glentworth, Phile, Graham, and Green. Hardly one of the practising doctors that remained in the city, escaped sickness — some were three, four, and five times confined." On page 145 of the fourth edition of this book, Philadelphia, January 16, 1794, in a list of deaths is the following: "John Linn, physician, of New England." Mr. Charles Perry Fisher, Librarian of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia, who so kindly furnished the above information, says that "John Linn died, evidently in October or November, 1793, and was buried in St. Peter's Church Graveyard."

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BENJAMIN CURTIS (1752-1784), the son of Benjamin and Abigail Bridge Curtis, was born in Roxbury, September 16, 1752, graduated at Harvard College in 1771 and was a pupil of Dr. Joseph Gardner. He married Elizabeth Billings of Sharon, Massachusetts, while still pursuing his medical studies; enlisted as surgeon during the Revolution and at the end of the war settled in the south part of Boston where Ephraim Eliot says he "was employed considerably." J. M. Toner adds testimony that Curtis "maintained a good reputation and practice until his death," which occurred in Boston, November 26, 1784, of an "acute fever," in the thirty-third year of his age. He was a member of the Boston Medical Society and lived on what is Essex Street now, hence in the south part of the town then. He attended early meetings of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the last one being August 5, 1784. His widow married Elisha Ticknor in 1791 and was the mother of George Ticknor.

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THOMAS WELSH (1751-1831), army surgeon, treasurer and orator, was born in Charlestown, June 1, 1751. He took a classical course under master Moody at Byefield and was graduated from Harvard in the class of 1772, being honor man in a class of forty-eight members with such classmates as John Eliot, William Eustis and Levi Lincoln. After graduation he studied medicine with Dr. Isaac Foster of his native town, a Harvard Graduate of the class of 1758, a member of the Provincial Congress and the first surgeon engaged by the Council of War to care for the wounded after the battle of Lexington. Dr. Welsh was present at this battle and at Bunker Hill where he was stationed with Lieutenant Colonel Brickett in a house under the western side of the hill where the first of the wounded were treated. According to "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution" Dr. Welsh's name was "returned in a list of vacancies in the 19th Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Israel Hutchinson, dated Camp at Winter Hill, October 31, 1775; said Welsh

was reported as having served satisfactorily as surgeon from the earliest part of the campaign, although without warrant, and as being willing to continue in service in the same capacity; recommended in Council, November 1, 1775, to General Washington to receive a warrant." Later in the war Dr. Welsh was attached to the American Army when in New York and New Jersey, at the close settling in Boston where he was attached to the Marine Hospital at Charlestown and was quarantine physician to the port of Boston, holding also the office of consulting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital, after that institution was put in operation and he had received the honorary degree of M. D. from Harvard in 1811.

In the year 1781 Dr. Welsh was a member of the Boston Medical Society which planned for the formation of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He lived on Sudbury Street, near Concert Hall, where the meetings of the Massachusetts Medical Society were held after 1790. Dr. Welsh was the first treasurer of the society (1782-1798) and an able officer he proved to be, as attested by his reports and by the statements of the auditing committees, who passed on the status of the funds during his long incumbency in office. He filled the offices of corresponding secretary from 1805 to 1815, and vice-president from 1815 to 1823, an extended period of service to the society. As a member of a committee of physicians he attended vaccination experiments by the Board of Health at Noddle's Island on August 16, 1802; in 1812 he was on a committee of the society to protest before the General Court the incorporation of another medical school in Massachusetts. He held membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, being treasurer from 1796 to 1798; the Boston Town Records say that he was a member of the School Committee from 1789 to 1796, having been elected in the first-named year to put into effect the "new system of education." With Dr. Appleton he wrote the preface, read the proofs and put the first volume of the "Medical Communications" of the Massachusetts Medical Society through the press.

The following excerpts from an old unsigned manuscript, received recently from Dr. G. B. and Dr. F. C. Shattuck by the Boston Medical Library, show that Dr. Welsh had oratorical ability and give a glimpse of his private life: "An oration delivered March 5, 1783, at the request of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, to commemorate the bloody tragedy of the 5th of March, 1770, and a eulogy delivered June 29, 1796, at the Meeting House in Charlestown in memory of the Hon. Nathaniel Gorham, Esq., are the only acknowledged productions from the pen of Dr. Welsh known to the writer" . . .

"On December 11, 1777, Dr. Welsh married Abigail Kent at the house of Deacon Isaac Smith. It should be said that he derived great support from his wife, whom he married from one of the first families in the Commonwealth" . . .

Dr. Welsh numbered among his intimate friends Governor John Brooks, the Adamses, the Otises, the Warrens and the Gorhams; when he died in Boston, February 9, 1831, at the age of seventy-nine, he was the oldest physician in the city and the last survivor of the founders of the medical society, according to a notice in the *Boston Evening Transcript* of February 16, 1831.



NATHANIEL WALKER APPLETON (1755-1795). James Thacher, who lived during the lifetime of Nathaniel Walker Appleton, has this to say of him: "He was a most amiable man but too diffident to display his real worth and abilities, which were far above mediocrity."

The son of Nathaniel Appleton of the Harvard class of 1749, a Boston merchant and member of the "Committee of Correspondence," Nathaniel Walker was born in Boston, June 14, 1755. His mother was Mary Walker; his grandfather, Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Appleton, of the Harvard class of 1712 and minister of the "Church in Cambridge" from 1717 until his death in 1784. Nathaniel was graduated A. B. from Harvard in 1773, then he wrote interesting letters to his classmate, Eliphalet Pearson, the first preceptor of Phillips Andover Academy, later professor of Hebrew at Harvard and a member of its Corporation, on one occasion acting president. Appleton's letters show accuracy and attention to minutiae that are so characteristic of the records of the medical society that have been preserved for us intact; they manifested a considerable skill in the art of writing, were filled with affection for his friend and evinced a spirit of patriotism, describing as they did the incidents of the Revolution in and about Boston. Of a modest and impersonal frame of mind Appleton wrote too little of himself, from the biographer's point of view.

Until the fall of 1774 he lived in Cambridge, taking an A. M. at Harvard; then he moved to Salem where he studied medicine, as was the custom of the day, before the beginnings of medical schools in the East, living and working with his father's cousin the centenarian, Edward Augustus Holyoke, he who trained thirty-five practitioners in the art of medicine and was the first president of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Finishing his novitiate Dr. Appleton settled in practice in Boston and married Sarah Greenleaf, May 24, 1780. They had seven children, four of them dying in childhood and the other three living to the ages of 68, 69 and 70 years.

Holyoke was president of the State Medical Society from 1782 to 1784, and again from 1786 to 1787. The other presidents during Appleton's secretaryship were Cotton Tufts, who although living in Weymouth, twelve miles away, was most punctilious in his attention to the duties of his office, and William Kneeland of Cambridge, who attended no meetings during his two years in office. A careful study of the records would lead to the belief that the society could not have continued its existence without the fostering care of Appleton and Tufts.

According to contemporary accounts Dr. Appleton had a good practice. "The Boston Directory" of 1789, the first year such a book was published, gives the doctor's residence as, "South Latin-School Street, near the Stone-Chapel," that is to say, he lived in the present School Street, near King's Chapel. In this year Appleton became a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and he was serving as chairman of the committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society that brought out the first volume of the "Medical Communications" in 1790, a publication that was to continue in yearly numbers until 1914, one hundred and twenty-four years. He served also on a committee of the society on education that drafted the qualifications of candidates for a license to practise, in conformity with the act of the Legislature having reference to the society, passed in 1789. According to the



Boston Town Records Appleton was elected a member of the school committee of twelve members in 1789 to put into operation the "New System of Education," being reelected each year through 1794.

It would appear that his health was not good, for in a letter to his friend Pearson, dated March 23, 1782, he says that he was sending a messenger with his letter "being somewhat unwell myself and not daring to be out in the evening air," and again in 1784, "at present I am confined with a bad cold." In 1788 he asked leave to resign as secretary but the society would not grant it and he kept on for four years more.

Dr. Appleton's records as secretary require special mention for they exhibit a thoroughness that has been only too rare in the history of similar societies. Beyond the fact that his handwriting was good he thought it worth while to set down all the important doings of the society and its council. He did not delegate this to others; he did it himself, and he wrote conscientiously and regularly through a series of years. Who will gainsay that this attention to detail was a leading factor in establishing on a sound basis a new society that was to exercise a potent influence for bettering the standards of medicine in the community? He and Dr. Welsh wrote the preface for the first volume of the "Medical Communications," published in 1790, and put the book through the press.

On January 2, 1793 he signed the records for the last time after resigning his office and received the thanks of the society for his past services. He attended meetings of society and council until April 3, 1794; April 16 he sent a letter presenting the society with "a folio edition of Smellie's anatomical tables; a quarto edition of the medical works of Richard Smead, M.D., and a small box containing a few anatomical preparations." He was made an honorary Fellow and moved to Marietta, Ohio, to return to Boston and die April 15, 1795, two months before his fortieth birthday.

The Rev. John Clarke preached a funeral sermon on Appleton April 19, 1795 at the "First Church in Boston," taking for his text: "Lover and friend hast thou put far from me; and mine acquaintance into darkness." Having been in the next class to Appleton in college, when classes contained only thirty or forty members, it is likely that Clarke knew a good deal about the subject of his discourse. We feel sure that Appleton would have approved of the clergyman's remarks for in one of his letters to his friend Pearson in 1784 he speaks of sending him a similar sermon preached by Dr. Clarke on the death of the Rev. Dr. Cooper in 1783. The custom of the time did not countenance in a funeral oration anything but "reflections" so posterity must be content with the only direct reference to Appleton as contained in the following quotation: "It is acknowledged that the person, whose death has led to these reflections, was the man of pure and undefiled religion; — was a pattern of all the excellencies which adorn the human character. His integrity, his veracity, his meekness, his benevolence, his profound reverence of the Deity, his respect for the Saviour, and his ardent love for his country, were displayed on numberless occasions; and gathered new brightness through every successive period of life."

Appleton wrote two papers for the Massachusetts Medical Society that were published in the "Medical Communications": "An account of the successful

treatment of paralysis of the lower limbs, occasioned by a curvature of the spine," and "History of a hemorrhage from a rupture of the inside of the left labium pudendi."

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JOSEPH WHIPPLE (1756-1804), a member of the Boston Medical Society, lived on Orange Street in the "South End," the street being the part of the present Washington Street that extended from Essex Street to Dover Street. He was not a graduate of Harvard and we do not know what his education was. Ephraim Eliot says that in 1780 he was "rising into notice, Dr. Joseph Gardner having taken him under his protection." J. M. Toner says that Whipple had acquired a large professional practice. After the state society had become organized he was a constant attendant at its meetings, as attested by the records; from 1800 to 1805 he was corresponding secretary, an office that required a good deal of attention as that was the time of the reorganization and there was much correspondence concerning the enlargement of the society and placing it on its new basis.

A death notice of Dr. Whipple is in the *Columbian Centinel* of September 26, 1804, his age being given as forty-eight years.

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SHIRLEY ERVING (1759-1813) was the son of John (Harvard, 1747) and Maria Shirley Erving, she being a daughter of Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts. Shirley Erving was baptised at Trinity Church, Boston, November 20, 1759, was married to Mary Coffin in the same edifice, December 26, 1786, and when he died at the age of fifty-three, his funeral was held there, July 10, 1813. Erving lived on Common Street; he was a member of the Boston Medical Society. Following the organization of the Massachusetts Medical Society he was an occasional attendant at its meetings. Harvard gave him an honorary A. M. in 1810. February 3, 1813, he was elected librarian of the state society in place of John Fleet, deceased, but served only until the annual meeting in that year, as illness forced him to resign. The *Columbian Centinel* of July 17, 1813, devoted half a column to a eulogistic obituary devoid of facts about his life, as was the custom of the day. At one time Erving seems to have moved to Portland, Maine. The Catalogue of the Massachusetts Medical Society of 1789 has him in Portland; he was there in 1806 and 1807 yet back in Boston in 1811 and 1813, according to the catalogues of those years. In the year 1804 he signed a petition for the establishment of a district medical society, of the Massachusetts Medical Society, to comprise the counties of York, Cumberland and Lincoln, Maine. The petition was dated, Portland, June 30, 1804, and is preserved in the files.



## CHAPTER II

### THE FOUNDING AND FIRST TWENTY YEARS

HAVING sketched the circumstances which led up to the formation of the Massachusetts Medical Society and set down the lives of the founders we are come to the actual beginnings. By the act of incorporation Edward Augustus Holyoke of Salem, the preceptor of many practitioners of the day, was directed to fix the time and to notify the place of the first meeting. The accompanying notice, preserved in the Bowditch Book, was issued accordingly.

SUMMONS FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY, ISSUED BY EDWARD AUGUSTUS HOLYOKE, NOVEMBER 9, 1781.

*From the manuscript in Dr. Holyoke's handwriting, in the Bowditch Book.*

Salem, Nov<sup>r</sup>. 9, 1781.

Whereas the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, hath by an act passed the last session, incorporated the several gentlemen whose names are as follows, viz.: Nathaniel Walker Appleton, William Baylies, Benjamin Curtis, Samuel Danforth, Aaron Dexter, Shirley Erving, John Frink, Joseph Gardner, Samuel Holten, Edward Augustus Holyoke, Ebenezer Hunt, Charles Jarvis, Thomas Kast, Giles Crouch Kellogg, John Linn, James Lloyd, Joseph Orne, James Pecker, Oliver Prescott, Charles Pynchon, Isaac Rand, Isaac Rand, jun<sup>r</sup>, Micajah Sawyer, John Sprague, senior, Charles Stockbridge, John Barnard Swett, Cotton Tufts, John Warren, Thomas Welsh, Joseph Whipple, William Whiting, into a body politic & corporate by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SCOEITY — and hath by said act empowered the Fellows of said society to chuse a president, vice-president, & secretary, with other officers as they shall judge necessary & convenient &c — hath granted to said society other powers & immunities as by said act may appear, — hath empowered said Fellows to have a common seal &c, — hath empowered them to sue & be sued — to elect, suspend & expell Fellows of the society — to make rules and bye laws, & to annex reasonable penalties & fines for the breach of them, not exceeding the sum of £20. — to establish the time and manner of convening the Fellows, & also to determine the number of Fellows that shall constitute a meeting of the society — and hath also enacted that the number of said



society who are inhabitants of this Commonwealth shall not at any one time be more than 70, nor less than 10, — and that their meetings be held at Boston or such other place as the majority shall judge fit — that the President & Fellows, or such other as they shall appoint shall have power to examine all candidates for the practice of physic & surgery who shall offer themselves for examination, & shall give letters testimonial of their approbation under their seal &c — and if the persons appointed to examine, obstinately refuse, they are subjected to a fine of £100. — This act also empowers the Fellows of said society to hold and take in fee simple &c any land, tenement or other estate real or personal; provided the annual income of the real do not exceed £200 & the annual income of the personal do not exceed £600 — It is also thereby further enacted that the first meeting of the society be held in some convenient place in the town of Boston, and that Edward Augustus Holyoke Esq. be authorized and directed to fix the time for holding said meeting, and notify the same to the Fellows.

In pursuance therefore of the above direction, I do hereby notify the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, whose names are mentioned in the act as above recited, to meet at the County Court House, in Boston, on Wednesday the 28th day of this instant November at 10 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of chusing officers of the society, & transacting any other matters, (which by this act they are empowered to do;) as they shall think proper.

(Signed)

E. A. Holyoke<sup>1</sup>

In this connection a letter to the public on the beginning of the Society arrests our attention as coming from Dr. John Warren, who had so much to do with the founding.

LETTER TO THE PUBLIC UPON THE INSTITUTION OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY (*In the handwriting of John Warren, as attested by his great-grandson, J. Collins Warren*)

“The design of the above institution is, “to promote medical and surgical knowledge, inquiries into the animal economy & the promotion & effects of medicine,” by encouraging a free intercourse with the Gentlemen of the Faculty throughout the United States of America, and a friendly correspondence with the eminent in those professions throughout the world; “as well as to make a just discrimination between such as are duly educated and properly qualified for the duties thereof, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer medicine, whereby the health and lives of many valuable individuals may be endangered and perhaps lost to the community.”

In so laudable and useful an institution the Massachusetts Medical Society feel the most solid encouragement in calling upon the wise and observant of the Faculty, and upon the curious in every profession, to communicate whatever may appear to them conducive to this great undertaking.

They would wish that the most trifling observations, if pertinent, may not

<sup>1</sup> A sketch of Dr. Holyoke, the first president, will be found at the end of this chapter.



OLD COUNTY COURT HOUSE, IN QUEEN (COURT) STREET

(Under arrow in right background.)

From Marston's painting of upper State (King) Street, 1801. The Old State House, in center, was a meeting place of the Council.







be withheld. Every communication will be gratefully received and treated with the utmost candour. For the purpose of enabling the people at large (who might otherwise be incapable of fully discerning the qualifications of candidates for practice) to distinguish the persons upon whom they may rely, they have, upon the principles of their charter, appointed five censors whose duty, as assigned them is "to examine all candidates for the practice of physic and surgery who shall offer themselves therefor, and to give letters testimonial of their approbation, to those whom they shall find worthy of public confidence." Such gentlemen as would present themselves candidates for examination will be seasonably notified of the stated meetings of the censors in the weekly newspapers of the town of Boston.

per order "

The first meeting was held at the County Court House in Boston on November 28, 1781, "agreeable to the notification," as the minutes say. There were present "Doct<sup>rs</sup>. Appleton, Baylies, Curtis, Danforth, Gardner, Holyoke, Hunt, Jarvis, Kast, Linn, Lloyd, Pecker, Rand, Rand jun<sup>r</sup>, Sprague, Tufts, Warren, Welsh, and Whipple," nineteen in number, all incorporators. The officers chosen at this meeting were "*pro tempore*," the first regular set of officers being chosen in the following June, a custom regarding the election of regular officers that has been continued to the present day. At this first meeting "scrutineers" were chosen to count the ballots, a majority being necessary for election. Dr. E. A. Holyoke was elected president, Isaac Rand, junior, secretary, and Thomas Welsh treasurer. A committee of seven was elected to form a code of by-laws for the future regulation of the society. This was its membership: "Doct<sup>rs</sup>. Tufts, Lloyd, Holyoke, Warren, Danforth, Rand jun. & Jarvis." The committee was authorized to call a meeting when they were ready and the secretary was authorized to procure three hundred copies of the printed charter for the use of the society. (One of these has been copied with its original spelling, punctuation and capitalization. It will be found at the end of this chapter.

The next meeting was on April 17, 1782, when these men were present: "Doct<sup>rs</sup>. Appleton, Curtis, Danforth, Gardner, Holten, Kast, Pecker, Rand, Rand jun<sup>r</sup>., Tufts, Warren, Welsh, and Whipple." Doctor Holten, who had had legislative experience, was chosen president *pro tempore* and read the report of the committee on the code of laws. This was considered by sections, and, as the record states, "some time was spent thereon." The time of meeting was not mentioned but the meeting adjourned to three o'clock, P.M. when the report was passed upon, the new by-laws were adopted

and entered in the "Statute Book." A committee was appointed to take under consideration the form of the "letters testimonial" to be given candidates approved by the censors, to invent a device and motto for a seal and to propose such other regulations as they should judge necessary, at the next meeting. This committee was "Doct<sup>rs</sup>. Tufts, Warren and Appleton." After requesting the secretary for the time to put into the advertisement of the next meeting that there would be an election of officers at that time, the meeting adjourned, or, as they wrote then: "Voted, That this meeting be dissolved."

The first real annual meeting was held on June 5, 1782, the following fifteen men being present: Appleton, Curtis, Danforth, Erving, Gardner, Jarvis, Kast, Lloyd, Pecker, Rand jun<sup>r</sup>., Sprague, Tufts, Warren, Welsh, and Whipple. Dr. Lloyd was made president *pro hac vice*, the committee reported as to letters testimonial but asked for more time as to the motto and seal. After adjournment to the afternoon at three o'clock officers were elected for the ensuing year. This first list is given here as it appears in the original record:

Edward Augustus Holyoke Esq.	<i>President</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . James Pecker	<i>Vice-President</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Samuel Danforth	} <i>Counsellors</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Joseph Gardner	
Hon. Sam <sup>l</sup> . Holten Esq.	
James Lloyd Esq.	
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Isaac Rand jun <sup>r</sup> .	
Doct <sup>r</sup> . John Sprague	
Hon. Cotton Tufts Esq.	} <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . John-Barnard Swett	
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Nath <sup>l</sup> . Walker Appleton	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Thomas Welsh	<i>Treasurer</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Aaron Dexter	<i>Vice-Treasurer and Librarian</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Sam <sup>l</sup> . Danforth	} <i>Censors</i>
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Charles Jarvis	
Doct <sup>r</sup> . Joseph Orne	
Hon: Cotton Tufts Esq.	
Doct <sup>r</sup> . John Warren	

Note that Holten and Tufts were both "Hon." and "Esq.", Lloyd, "Esq." only, while the rest were "Doctors."

The vice-president was empowered to administer the oaths to the different officers and the following gentlemen were sworn: D<sup>rs</sup>. Appleton, Danforth, Lloyd, Sprague, Tufts, Warren and

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BOSTON, Sept. 23 1782

S I R,

A Meeting of the Council of the  
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SO-  
CIETY is to be holden at *Cot. Ingersolls*  
*in Court Street* on *Wednesday* the 2 of  
*October* at 10 *o'clock* AM. at which time and  
place you are desired to attend.

By order of the Vice President.

*T. W. Appleton* Sec'y.

NOTICE OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1782

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Welsh. A committee of five was appointed to publish a list of the officers elected, to announce to the public that the Massachusetts Medical Society was organized — “also to invite the correspondence of the Faculty and others as they shall think proper.” The meeting was dissolved, and the society had started on a long and successful career.

The first record book of the society is quaint, from modern-day standards. It is a sheep-covered oblong quarto volume (13 by 8½ by 1 inches) made of excellent quality rag paper with deckle edges. In the paper are two watermarks: one, of large size, shows a female figure, Britannia, extending her scepter over a lion who holds a short sword. Above is the motto: PRO PATRIA. The other smaller mark is circular in shape and consists of a crown over the initials G. R. (Georgius Rex). The nut gall ink, spread by the hand of Nathaniel Walker Appleton, is as black today as it was one hundred and forty years ago. In the top corner of the inside front cover of the book are these words: “May, 1782. Cost 21/.”

The original steel seal adopted in 1783 with its short boxwood handle is preserved in the little drawer in the steel fireproof safe in the vault at the Boston Medical Library, 8 The Fenway. From the diploma given to a licentiate, Frederick Augustus Parker of Salem in 1816, to be seen on page 181 of the Bowditch Book, in the same safe in the Library vault, we know that the seal was used with a thin red wax disc having superimposed on it a lace-like white paper wafer. The following vote from the council record of the meeting on February 2, 1804, shows when these paper wafers were obtained: “*Voled*, That the Recording Secretary be desired to obtain a number of white wafers for the use of the Society in applying the seal.” A photostatic copy of the Parker diploma will be found at page 308, of this book. One hundred years later, namely, in 1916, an exact duplicate of the seal was made by the best die cutter in Boston from the original. This was arranged as an embossing seal with frame and handle and has been in use by the secretary since, to stamp certificates of fellowship and official documents.

The “Old County Court House” in Queen Street, now Court Street, where the society held its meetings until 1790, deserves a few words of description as it went out of existence in 1833 to give place to the court house with stately granite columns that was

designed by Solomon Willard. This, in turn, lasted until pulled down in recent time for the erection of the present City Hall Annex. The "County Court House" was a brick building three stories high, with a cupola and bell, erected on the site of the "Old Prison" on Queen street in the year 1769. It was not until 1784 that the name of the street was changed to "Court," due to the presence there of the building which housed all the law courts of the county of Suffolk. If the reader will glance at the illustration of the upper end of State Street from the painting by Marston (1801), now in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, he will note to the right of the Old State House, under the arrow in the margin, a restricted glimpse of the old court house — so far as is known, the only picture in existence. The "Old Brick" church, as it was called, the second building of the First Church, is shown at the left of the Old State House. It held the first public clock in the town and its bell rang the alarm for the "Boston Massacre" (1770), which took place at the right hand front corner of the state house, as seen in the picture. The General Court held its sessions in the Old State House until 1798; the building served as a meeting-place for the council of the Massachusetts Medical Society on several occasions, as will be described later. The constitution of the State was prepared in this state house and the act incorporating the Massachusetts Medical Society was passed there. In the year 1817 the "Provident Institution for Savings in the Town of Boston," as its full title runs, occupied a room on the first floor of the County Court House, whether the same room used by the medical society earlier, we do not know. It so happened that many years later, specifically from 1870 to 1879, the state medical society was a tenant of the Provident Institution for Savings in its building at 36 Temple Place, the savings bank having bought the Thomas Handasyd Perkins estate on that site in 1854 — renting the superfluous space to various tenants, the medical society among them. The savings bank is in the same building today.

At the next meeting in July, 1782, twelve members being present, the device for the seal was adopted and the motto "Natura Duce" substituted for the one first suggested, namely, "Vivere Naturae." New fellows were elected and a committee named to draw up rules and orders for "the well conducting of the business of the Society." Such rules and orders were continued until 1913,





when they were combined with the by-laws. At the meeting in July, 1782, the vice-president and doctors Holten, Rand, jr., Swett and Dexter were sworn into office.

It is to be noted that the vice-president, Dr. Pecker, presided at all the early meetings of the Society through the year 1785; that Dr. Holyoke did not attend a meeting after the first one for organization in November, 1781 until November 8, 1786, after he had been elected president for the second time. His successor, William Kneeland, the second president, attended no meeting during the two years he held office, 1784-1786, the gavel being wielded during that time by the vice-presidents, James Pecker and Cotton Tufts, who were constant in their attendance, as was the secretary, Nathaniel Walker Appleton, who first signed the minutes, those "for the year 1782" at the meeting in April, 1783. He provided accurate and full records for the next ten years. We know that Dr. Holyoke was a poor traveler, for he never but once went fifty miles from Salem during his century of existence; William Kneeland, who lived in Cambridge, did not have as good an excuse. Holyoke assisted the society by reading many papers and serving on committees; it does not appear that Kneeland did much more than lend his name for the presidency. It will be an object in this history to point out what was actually done by the officers and committees of the society, so far as can be ascertained, figureheads and dummy directors, who are so numerous today, will receive little attention. A letter from Dr. Tufts to the vice-president is of interest here.

#### LETTER OF COTTON TUFTS TO JAMES PECKER, VICE-PRESIDENT

"Weymouth, Aug. 13, 1782.

Sir,

I have been informed by the Recording Secretary, that the next meeting of the Medical Society will be a particular meeting — No provision is made by the statutes for transacting the general business of the Society at such meetings — There are several amendments, additions and alterations in the Law that appear to me necessary to be made at the next meeting; should they strike your mind as necessary, you will probably concur in the propriety of converting the next meeting (if a particular one) into an extraordinary meeting. (Both may be held on the same day if thought necessary, in order to conform to the statutes.) that those matters may be regularly taken up — I would beg leave to submit to your consideration, whether, under the present circumstances of the Society, there would not be a propriety in suspending the particular meetings? 2dly. Whether such candidates for the practice of

physic and surgery as propose to offer themselves for examination should not be required to give notice of their design to the Recording Secretary on or before the stated meeting, otherwise (as the case may be) the Censors may attend to no purpose. 3dly. Whether a fee for the certificate of approbation should not be established. 4th. Whether the commencement of the year for the annual payment of two dollars by each Fellow should not be ascertained — These should you think worthy of attention I should wish to have laid before the Council at their next meeting that some order might be taken upon them as also the propriety of recommending to each of the Fellows of the Society to transmit to the Record'g Sec'y from time to time an account of those diseases that have been most prevalent in the circle of their practice.

I am Sr. with great respect your very humble serv't,  
Doctr James Pecker, V.P.M.S.

Cotton Tufts"

It was the original plan to hold three regular meetings of the society a year and to have in addition three so-called "particular meetings" at which scientific discussions of the diseases prevalent, might be held. The particular meetings were soon omitted by vote, the scientific side being taken up at the regular meetings provided it did not interfere with the general business of the society. The holding of the particular meetings was repeatedly postponed by vote until 1803.

The Council of seven members held their first meeting on July 18, 1782, soon after the first regular annual meeting at which the counsellors had been elected. They made rules for their own guidance, passed on candidates for fellowship, and prepared the business for the meetings of the society, gathering just before each meeting. In the first years Appleton, Tufts, Pecker, Lloyd, Gardner, Rand and Danforth were assiduous in their attendance. Appleton kept the records and signed them. Here is a rather quaint entry in the record of the meeting held October 1, 1783:

"3 o'clock P.M. Present in Council — The vice-president (Dr. Pecker) Doctors Kneeland, Danforth, Rand jr. and Tufts. A letter from the Rev. President of Harvard University to the recording secretary inviting the officers of the Massachusetts Medical Society to attend at Cambridge on Tuesday 7th October at the public induction of the gentlemen sometime since elected medical professors, and to dine in the hall was read and thereupon Voted, That the secretary inform the officers so invited that it is the desire of this council that such officers as do attend would walk as a corps."

We can picture them walking as a body to the exercises. Joseph Willard was president of the college. No doubt the occasion was impressive. The formal invitation of President Willard is printed here.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT WILLARD OF HARVARD INVITING THE OFFICERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY TO ATTEND THE INDUCTION INTO OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Doctor Nathaniel W. Appleton,  
one of the secretaries of the  
Massachusetts Medical Society;  
Sir,

"University in Cambridge,  
Sept. 20, 1783.

The Corporation and Overseers of this University have determined upon Tuesday, the 7th day of October next, for the time of the public induction of the Gentlemen some time since elected medical Professors. — The Corporation have passed a vote, inviting the President and other officers of the Massachusetts medical Society, to attend upon this occasion, and dine with them in the Hall. They have desired me, Sir, to communicate this invitation to you, requesting you to accept it for yourself, and to make it, in their name, to the other Gentlemen in office. I now comply with their desires, and request you, to take the earliest opportunity, to communicate this invitation to the several Gentlemen designed.

I am, Sir,  
with much esteem,  
your very humble servt.

Doctor N. W. Appleton.

Joseph Willard Pres<sup>d</sup>."

The letter is all in President Willard's handwriting; also the following:

"Cambridge, July 5, 1788.

Sir,

Two students in Physic have offered themselves to an examination for the degree of Bachelor of Physic, in the University. (Note. John Fleet and George Holmes Hall, the first graduates in medicine) They are to be examined next Tuesday, the 8th Instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon in the Philosophy Chamber, before the Governors of the University, the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and such other Physicians & Gentlemen as shall chuse to attend.

I have written to the President of the Medical Society, requesting his attendance, and desiring him to inform the members of the Society, of the examination. — As he lives at some distance from Boston, (Note. Dr. Cotton Tufts lived at Weymouth, 12 miles from Boston) and may be prevented from giving the Gentlemen of the Society information, I should be obliged to you, Sir, to do it. I should be sorry that the Gentlemen who can attend, should fail of being notified; and should they be doubly notified, it would do no harm.

Your and their attendance, Sir, would be agreeable to all concerned, and particularly so to

Dr. N. Walker Appleton.

Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>  
Joseph Willard"





The college records say that besides the president, the corporation, the professors and tutors, the overseers, the consul and vice-consul of France and the officers of the Massachusetts Medical Society marched to the meeting-house. There the president, after opening the meeting with prayers, delivered a Latin oration and declared that Dr. John Warren had been regularly chosen professor of anatomy and surgery, Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, professor of the theory and practice of physic and Dr. Aaron Dexter, professor of chemistry and materia medica. Warren and Waterhouse being present were called upon to make declarations and promises in a form determined upon by the corporation, which they did, whereupon they were publicly declared professors and they delivered inaugural orations. When verses from the Psalms had been sung the company adjourned to dine in the Hall. Aaron Dexter was inducted into office on October 6 of the same year. Both Dexter and Warren were fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society at this time. Waterhouse, although approved by the Council on July 1, 1784, being consistently contentious, declined the honor and did not become a fellow until June 1, 1785, according to a notation in the Statute Book, and a letter of his dated June 2, 1785 to Secretary Appleton in the Bowditch Book in which he says he is "desirous of due reflection lest a too precipitate determination should betray him into an impropriety of conduct towards the faculty his brethren, than which there are few things he is more studious to avoid." Subsequently he accepted fellowship but managed to keep in hot water with the society for a series of years. Reference will be made later to the misunderstanding about a committee to investigate a smallpox epidemic at Marblehead, in 1801, which was thought to be due to a vaccinated person.

It is to be borne in mind that at this time the fellowship of the society was limited to seventy, the council nominated and approved new fellows and the society elected them; the society elected the officers and censors until 1803, it elected the councilors until 1850; after that date all three were elected by the district societies, in this way forming a representative organization, the districts sending their agents to the governing body, which in turn chose the officers from among its members. Each district, by electing five censors from among its members, made sure that the candidates for fellowship should be examined by those who were most likely to be familiar with their qualifications in the way of moral charac-







ter and ethics, aside from their ability to pass an examination on the principles of medicine; at the same time no central board of censors might be accused of local prejudices or partisanship. In the early years the district societies were not yet well organized; previous to 1831 there were only three district societies, as will be noted on consulting the chapter on the District Societies. After the reorganization in 1803, the small general society was a nucleus for the growth of a more democratic body.

In the year 1783 the society began correspondence with similar societies at home and abroad; a committee was appointed to take into consideration all letters received and to draft answers; a circular letter was formulated, referring to the corresponding society in complimentary terms and asking for "free intercourse and communications." According to a report of a committee on the learned societies with which it was proposed to correspond, dated 1786, the following were to receive letters: College of Physicians in London; The Medical Society of Edinburgh; Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Royal Academy of Sciences at Stockholm; Philadelphia Medical Society; A College of Physicians at Copenhagen; A College of Physicians at Lyons; Imperial College of Physicians at St. Petersburg; Medical societies in Vienna, Leipsic, Goettingen and Leyden; Royal societies of medicine and surgery of Paris. At this time when the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States had been barely signed, one would not expect the British medical societies to show interest in an infant society organized by the rebellious subjects of the King, and so it proved. If written to they did not reply. John Adams was commissioner to France from 1778 and had negotiated the treaty of peace with Great Britain in 1782-1783. He used his good offices at the French court; he transmitted to the Massachusetts Medical Society a letter inclosing letters from the Royal Society of Medicine and from the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, dated respectively December 17, 1782 and March 8, 1783. These have been preserved in the Bowditch Book.

Most interesting are the letters of John Adams to the president of the Massachusetts Medical Society and letters to Adams from Geoffroy, vice-president of the French Royal Society, and Vicq d'Azyr, the noted comparative anatomist, at that time perpetual secretary of the society. In addition the curious may inspect a letter from Mr. St. John, French consul at Boston — he who was

present at Cambridge at the installation into office of the first professors of the medical school, John Warren and Benjamin Waterhouse. Mr. St. John offered to the society, on behalf of the King of France, the first number of *le Journal Militaire*, instancing the *entente cordiale* that existed between France and America at that period. Another letter preserved in our files is that from the Imperial College of Medicine at St. Petersburg, dated August 3, 1789, and addressed to the illustrious society of medicine of the United States of America at Boston. A Latin translation accompanies this letter.

As has been pointed out in the Introductory Chapter the Medical Society of New Jersey suspended its meetings from 1775 to November 6, 1781, five days after the signing of the act of the legislature in Massachusetts giving the Massachusetts society a charter. Under date of January 22, 1788, Jonathan Elmer, President of the New Jersey society, wrote to James Lloyd, asking for a copy of the Massachusetts charter, for, as he wrote:

"Notwithstanding this society hath existed for many years, they have not yet obtained a legal establishment, nor any other legislative encouragement except a law for regulating the practice of physic and surgery in the state."

(An engrossed copy of this law, dated November 26, 1783, is on page 28 of the Bowditch Book.)

It appeared that the New Jersey society had lost the confidence of their legislature by publishing a detailed fee table, indicating, apparently, that the profession was looking carefully to their remuneration for services, while offering no guarantee that those services would adequately care for the people of the state. Be that as it may, the New Jersey legislature passed an act in 1790 granting a charter to fifty physicians, specified by name, for the term of twenty-five years. This was the first charter received by the society in that state. Their society meetings were suspended again from 1795 to 1807, being resumed shortly after the Massachusetts society had been reorganized.

Dated the same year, 1788, is a letter from James Cogswell of New York to James Lloyd asking for the documents concerning the formation of our society as a model for the New York State Medical Society, organized two years later, and calling attention to the need of harmony in the profession.

EXEMPLAIRE

A l'illustre  
Société de Médecine des  
Etats unis en Amérique

Boston  
par Amsterdam par Londres.

Российская Императорская Академия Медицинских Наук  
состоит из шести классов: анатомическаго, хирургическаго, акушерскаго, фармакологическаго, ветеринарнаго и ботаническаго. Каждый класс имеет своего президента, профессора и ассистентов. Академия издает журнал "Медицинские Записки" и "Известия Академии Медицинских Наук".

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послание из Америки, в котором сообщается о  
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высказывает свое мнение о состоянии  
медицины в Америке и предлагает  
меры для ее улучшения.

В Топра: Се. Петра:  
Август 24-я  
1789 Тога.

Доктор Кошкин Глеб и  
доктор Сусловъ  
Доктор Яковлевъ





A full page printed announcement from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, signed by John Redman, President, under date of April 7, 1789, to the Massachusetts Medical Society, recites the beginning of that society for the purpose of "promoting harmony and uniformity in the practice of physic," and solicits assistance in forming a pharmacopoeia and in advancing medical science. The next year (August 24, 1790) John Redman sent a copy of a eulogy of Dr. William Cullen. But we are getting a little ahead of our story.

Let us glance at the different meeting-places of the society and the council during the first twenty years. As has been noted the first meeting of the society was in the County Court House in Boston, a building already described. The society met always in that town and city until 1851, when it met in Worcester. The only other times the society has met outside the capital of the state were in Pittsfield, in 1852; in Fitchburg, in 1854; Springfield, 1855; New Bedford, 1857, and Pittsfield again in 1863, during the Civil War. Efforts to have a meeting elsewhere than in Boston, prosecuted vigorously by the officers during recent years, have been uniformly unsuccessful until 1923; it appearing that the fellows have preferred to meet annually in Boston rather than in any of the smaller cities of the state.

The society and council met at the County Court House until the fall of 1783 when it met in the "Manufactory House," so called, a building covering the land at the northerly corner of Tremont Street and Hamilton Place, now occupied by the Phillips Building. The building belonged to the Commonwealth and had been used as a barracks during the Revolution. Previous to 1783 it had been used as a school by a Mr. Vinal. On March 20, 1783 the following resolve was passed by the general court:

"Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In Senate, March 20, 1783.

On the petition of Cotton Tufts Esq. and others in behalf of the Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Massachusetts Medical Society praying that the said societies may have the use of a room in the Manufactory House in Boston . . .

RESOLVED, that the Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Massachusetts Medical Society, be, and they are hereby permitted to make use of, and improve the room in the Manufactory House in the town of Boston (which has for some time past been occupied for a school by Srl' Vinal) until the further order of the General Court — The said Academy and societies not to

take possession of the said room until the said Vinal shall remove his school therefrom.

Sent down for concurrence

Samuel Adams Prest.

In the House of Representatives March 20, 1783

Read & concurred

Tristram Dalton Spr.

Approved

John Hancock

A true copy

Attest

John Avery Secy,"

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences held three meetings in the Manufactory House, — in December, 1783, and in January and April, 1784. The Massachusetts Medical Society approved of gathering there at its meeting in April, 1783, and appointed a committee to meet a committee of the Academy to make arrangements. They met there, twice in October, and in April, 1784 and June, 1784. In July, 1784, they had returned to the County Court House. The May meeting in 1785 was in the Senate Chamber, in the Old State House, in June at the County Court House again. The Manufactory House was built as a result of an act passed by the general court in 1754 levying a tax on carriages and other luxuries in order to promote manufacturing, especially the making of linen. The enthusiasm did not last long and after a time the Province took the building, a large brick structure, leasing it for different purposes. It was demolished in 1800.

The Massachusetts Bank occupied the Manufactory House in the spring of 1784, immediately after its founding and we find the following memorandum in the files:

"Monday, 15<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1784. Agreed that the medical society be allowed to meet in the stockholders chamber four times in the year provided it does not interfere with any business of the Bank."

For some reason, not now discoverable, the society went back to the County Court House. A meeting of the society in those days was an affair of only a dozen members, the council was of seven members, so that a large hall was not necessary, so far as the accommodation of numbers went. More than likely the proceedings went off better in more dignified surroundings, rather than in the room of a private house. At the first meeting in





CONCERT HALL OR JAMES VILA'S TAVERN, CORNER COURT AND HANOVER  
STREETS



"Mr. Furnass's painting room in Court Street" on October 26, 1785, there were eleven fellows present. Just what this room was I have not been able to discover; next year it was called "their hired room in Court Street." Although we have an order of the General Court dated March 24, 1786, permitting the society and the academy to hold meetings "in some one of the chambers or lobbies of the State House [Old State House] until further order," the society still met in their painting room in 1787, 1788 and 1789.

The council meanwhile met wherever it was convenient, and why shouldn't they, being a small body? They met in Cambridge in May, 1786, having used the Senate Chamber in the previous March, the place of meeting not being always stated in the minutes. In March, 1788, they gathered in the Selectmen's Room, and again in October of that year; in the Senate Chamber once more in May, also in July and October, 1789.

The society began to hold its meetings in Concert Hall in October, 1790, and continued there up to the time of the reorganization in 1802-1803. Concert Hall was a brick structure on the southerly corner of Hanover and Court Streets. The building dated from Colonial times, being owned by the family of Deblois until 1679. Before the Revolution it was a resort of the Friends of Liberty; the American prisoners captured at Bunker Hill were said to have been tried by a military court in Concert Hall. Concerts were held in the hall as early as 1755; Governor Hancock gave a grand ball there in 1778 to the officers of D'Estaing's fleet, three hundred persons being present; here the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association held its first meetings. It was a tavern in 1792, kept by James Vila. So the minutes of the meeting of our society on October 6, 1802 say: "held by adjournment at James Vila's." The building was torn down in 1869 for a widening of Hanover Street, previously having been presided over for some forty years by the restaurateur, Peter Bent Brigham, who left his fortune to found a hospital in Boston, at the present time one of the leading hospitals of the city.

At the meeting in the Manufactory House, held October 15, 1783, the first steps were taken to fulfil the duty imposed on the society to license practitioners of medicine in the state, an obligation that lay heavy on the consciences of those in control through a long series of years, as detailed in the chapter on Licensing. At this meeting it was



"Ordered: 1st. That the censors examine in physiology, in pathology & in therapeuticks, all such candidates, as shall offer themselves for examination. 2d. That the censors be, & they hereby are directed, to agree among themselves, (unanimously if they can) upon the mode of said examination, and upon the questions that shall be asked therein — and to commit said questions to writing. 3d. That in case a candidate upon examination by the censors, be found not skilled in his profession, the censors shall forthwith make minutes in writing of the answers given by such examinant to the questions by them put to him. 4th. That whenever the censors refuse to approbate a candidate whom they have examined, they shall forthwith deposit in the Recording Secretary's office a copy of the questions put to said candidate, and a copy of the minutes of the answers given to said questions. 5th. That said copies be not inspected by any person without leave in writing of the president & Council."

The quotation from the record shows careful attention to the details of duty. On April 14, 1784, Dr. Holten, Dr. Sawyer and Dr. Rand junior, were made a committee to "take into consideration the laws and resolutions of the society respecting such candidates for the practice of physic and surgery as have been approved by the censors," and in the following October the form of the certificate to be given by the treasurer to approved candidates was fixed, indicating an early and a favorable beginning at regulating the practice of medicine.

At many of the early meetings new members were elected in usual course; (see chapter on Membership) the first honorary members were elected October 30, 1783. They were Ammi Ruhmah Cutter, Hall Jackson and Joshua Brackett of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Monsieur Feron, "first surgeon and physician of the French fleet in North America, and of the King's hospitals at Boston," as his title ran. He was present at the meeting on April 14, 1784, and at the meeting on July 21 of that year, his paper entitled: "The History of an Abscess of the Liver with a state of the parts affected as discovered by dissection" was read. Feron had previously communicated to the society three histories of remarkable fractures of the skull, which were ordered filed, and he had presented two anatomical preparations, for which he received the thanks of the society. The Frenchmen were extending every courtesy to the new organization.

The first formal reading of the papers that had been presented to the society as "medical communications," a term that was to survive until 1914, was made at this meeting, held July 21, 1784, a special meeting convened for the purpose. Nine papers by the

following physicians were read: Holyoke, Cotton Tufts, Warren, Rand junior, Orne and Feron. At a subsequent meeting on August 5, 1784, the remaining papers, — seven in number, — were read by these physicians: Holyoke, Edward Wyer of Halifax, Holyoke, Story of Marblehead, Orne, Simon Tufts and N. A. Haven of Portsmouth and a committee of three was appointed to affix proper titles to all the communications and publish such titles in the newspapers — “with the names & places of abode of those persons from whom they were received.” Appleton, Warren and Welsh were the committee. It was ordered further that “all communications that have been received and read and all that shall hereafter be read be numbered and filed in the Secretary’s office.” This marked the beginning of the collection of papers that resulted in the publication of the first volume of the Medical Communications in 1790. That volume is described in the chapter on Publications.

Each year the treasurer made a report and the auditing committee stated what they had found as to the condition of the treasury, as will be found in the chapter headed “Financial.”

One of the earliest of the acts of the society was to put into effect the provision of the charter that “the fellows of the society shall have one common seal, and power to break, change and renew the same at their pleasure.” At the second meeting, April 17, 1782, Warren, Tufts and Appleton were made a committee:” to invent a Device and Motto for the Seal.” The committee reported July 18 of the same year laying several devices before the society, “particularly a Figure of Aesculapius in his proper Habit pointing to a wounded Hart nipping the Herb proper for his Cure with this Motto *vivere natura*. “Voted: That the Report of the Committee so far as it respects the Device be accepted.” “Voted: That *Natura duce* be the Motto.” “Voted: That the same Committee procure a seal agreeably to the Plan agreed upon.” This same committee reported at the meeting of the society on April 9, 1783 “That they had procured one [a seal] and laid it upon the table.” It was accepted by a unanimous vote. It must be admitted that the seal of 1783 viewed from an artistic standpoint is ugly and exhibits poor drawing. As an exemplar of the idealism of the founders it is beautiful and may well be preserved to pass along to the future the early aims of medicine and a society of medicine.





Concerning the controversy which was carried on between the society and the Harvard Medical School for ten years succeeding 1783 as to the respective rights to license practitioners of medicine the matter has been summarized in the chapter on Licensing. Many of the original committee reports are in the Bowditch Book exhibiting to the interested reader a searching for an equitable solution that would be for the best interests of the state.

It was in 1785 that the society passed this vote:

"Upon a recommendation of council that committees be appointed in the several counties of this Commonwealth for the purpose of encouraging the communications of all extraordinary or important cases that may occur in the practice of the Medical Art, and for this purpose to meet, correspond & communicate with any individuals or any associations of physicians that have been, or may be formed in their respective counties, and make report of their doings from time to time to this Society as occasion shall require. That —"

Then follow committees of two or three for each of the following counties: Suffolk, Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Hampshire, Berkshire, Bristol & Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes & Nantucket, York, Lincoln & Cumberland, in the order named, the secretary to transmit copies of the vote to the chairman of each committee. These were called the "Corresponding Committees." The next year Doctor Saltonstall, one of the Corresponding Committee for the county of Essex, reported that there were no associations in that county and that his committee had never met, Dr. Rand making a similar report for Middlesex, thereupon the society voted to publish all the votes forming the committees, indicating that it was determined by publicity to have the committees carry out the purposes for which they had been appointed, if possible. In those days, as ever since, the inertia of the general practitioner had to be overcome. Those who had the native ability and training to write the English language were few in number in the ranks of the profession of medicine. Many had interesting and important cases; few were able to report their experiences in understandable language, and fewer still were willing to take the time and trouble to put any notes they might have, into shape for publication. Then, as now, those who had the ability to write were not always those who had had the really important cases under observation, and cases were put on record, not because they merited special attention but because the reporter knew how to describe them. At the November meeting of the society, 1786, the committee





appointed "to examine all the medical communications that are on file in the secretary's office & report what number are proper for public inspection" reported that they had five papers the publication of which "would be attended with general practical utility," that they would occupy between forty and fifty pages, the number attached to each paper being given. The council was instructed to take into consideration all the papers submitted and the work of gathering material went on until it resulted in the publication of the first volume of the "Medical Communications" in 1790. There is nothing in the records to show that the committees of correspondence accomplished anything toward gathering papers. In November, 1788, it was voted to publish the first volume and to continue publishing from time to time as enough papers should accumulate in the files.

It was at this meeting in November, 1788, that Doctor Lloyd "laid on the table a paper purporting to be a charge against Doctor Spring for conducting in an improper manner as a Fellow of this Society" and a beginning was made of the function of the society detailed in the chapter on Police Duty and Discipline. At the same meeting action was taken to obtain from the legislature the first amendment to the charter act defining the duties of the censors, the act of February 10, 1789. The council was busy at this time conferring with the printer and planning for the publication of the first volume. Tufts, Danforth and Warren were the committee to determine which papers should be published and Appleton and Welsh a committee to correct the proofs and to confer with the printer. When published in 1790 a copy was sent to each fellow, to the College of Physicians, Philadelphia, The New Jersey Medical Society, the New Haven Medical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal College of Medicine at Paris, the Royal College of Surgeons at Paris, the Imperial College of Medicine at St. Petersburg, to Dr. William Lee Perkins, London, to Dr. Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, to Dr. John Coakley Lettsom, London, to Dr. Foart Simmons, London, and to Dr. John Feron, near Paris. The acknowledgments of some of these have been preserved in the files.

Three years after the appearance of the first printing of the medical communications, which was a pamphlet of 128 pages containing twelve articles and an appendix of letters and articles by authors outside New England, the council passed the following vote at its meeting on July 31, 1793:

*Voted*, That the corresponding secretary write to the Corresponding Committees in each county and request them to forward immediately all the medical communications on the files of their several associations; in order that the council may select such as may be thought proper for publication; and also that he request immediate answers from the said committees."

If any results were obtained they have not been recorded. In 1800 resort was had to the newspapers in which the statement was made that the society had determined to publish "speedily" another volume of their memoirs and requesting contributions from any who might have them, whether from members of the profession or not, so long as they were productive of the diffusion of medical science throughout the Commonwealth. As a matter of fact the next fasciculus of six papers was published in 1806, after the reorganization of the society. As early as 1791 Thomas and Andrews, the publishers of the first volume of Medical Communications, asked for the privilege of including other papers that had been communicated to the society in their *Massachusetts Magazine* but their request was denied.

All praise to these pioneers in the matter of publishing, for not only was it a most difficult undertaking, but the spreading throughout the community of articles of a high order of merit did much to place the Massachusetts Medical Society in an advanced rank among the medical institutions of the country. Someone had to indicate that the profession of medicine had other aims than the care of the individual sick from day to day; that experiences in the sick room and death chamber were to be passed along to those who had not had similar experiences, for the good of the great public, not for the benefit of the individual.

A vote was passed in October, 1790, appointing a committee to consider what measures should be taken regarding the amount of time that pupils should serve the fellows of the society during their novitiates, for at this period the medical schools had barely started turning out graduates and the practitioners must still be educated by the apprenticeship system. Accordingly it was resolved in the following June

"That in future no member of this Society shall receive any pupil to study with him for a less term of time than three years, unless he shall previously have studied with some other physician, in which case, the time he has studied shall be considered as part of the three years."

Each fellow was to receive a copy of the resolve.

Boston 11 June 1888

Gentlemen,

I'm the Month of June 1882 at  
 the first annual Election of Officers for the Society  
 you were pleased to honor me with your Suffrages  
 for Recording Secretary & have annually re-  
 newed the Choice from that time to the present —

For this your favor & confidence, be pleased  
~~now~~ to accept my Thanks — As I have now  
 served the Society for six years in an Office which  
 requires constant care, & attention to every trans-  
 action & which has engrossed no inconsiderable  
 proportion of my time, I would now be glad  
 to resign —

Sincerely wishing the prosperity  
 of the Society & that you may now be led to  
 a better Choice I subscribe myself, Gentl<sup>ly</sup>

Your obliged humble servt  
 Nathl. W. Appleton

NATHANIEL W. APPLETON'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY,  
 THAT WAS NOT ACCEPTED.







In the year 1792 Nathaniel Walker Appleton resigned his office of secretary that he had held for ten years. He had previously tried to be relieved of his duties in 1788 but the society had been unwilling to lose him. He had kept on, was present at every meeting, writing excellent time-consuming minutes, had served also as a councilor and made the records of the meetings of that body besides putting the first volume of medical communications through the press. He presented some books and an anatomical preparation to the library, went to Ohio to improve his health, returning three years later to die, in his fortieth year. How much the society owes him for faithful duty performed, at a time when it was hard to keep up the morale of a new organization, when constant attention to a myriad of details counted for a great deal, will never be known. Appleton meant more to the society than a conscientious clerk or "useful man." It is hard to think of the society without him during its first ten years. His letter of resignation in 1788 shows how he felt at that time.

The library of the society was an important feature of these early years. It was kept in the home of the librarian. Aaron Dexter, William Spooner and John Fleet were the librarians. The reader is referred to the chapter on the Library for a sketch of this part of the society from the time of its inception in 1782 to its disposal, ninety years later, to the Boston Public Library.

During this first period the by-laws were revised from time to time, as occasion required; for instance, a new draft was adopted at the meeting on April 16, 1794, at which Appleton's resignation as a fellow was accepted and he was made an honorary member by suspending the rules. The meetings were attended by a dozen or fifteen fellows as a rule, but as the eighteenth century drew toward its close there was apt to be lack of a quorum. It became increasingly difficult to collect assessments while the amount of business transacted decreased. The custom of having a dinner in connection with the annual meeting, begun in June, 1796, did much to keep up the morale of the society during this decadent time, but evidences multiplied that the membership was too restricted in number, that the State needed a more democratic personnel composed of every member of the profession in good standing who could pass the censors.

Ebenezer Alden says in his Historical Sketch of the Massachusetts Medical Society, 1838, that

"unhappy personal alienations among some of the leading members existed; several of the most active of the founders had deceased or had become too infirm to take part as formerly in the meetings."

We may note that at this same period the New Jersey Medical Society, organized in 1766, was having a difficult time, in fact it suspended its meetings entirely from 1795 to 1807. The Massachusetts society, however, was able to keep on, but with diminished attendance and interest.

In 1801 John Dexter Treadwell of Salem became a fellow and in the following year James Jackson of Boston joined the ranks. They were to have much to do with the reorganization of the society in 1803. Treadwell was thirty-three and Jackson, recently returned from a European medical education, was twenty-five— young men now at society reorganization as at its founding.

Just before the change in the society's organization, with a new charter from the legislature, came the introduction of vaccination for smallpox by Benjamin Waterhouse. He had made the first vaccination for smallpox in America at Boston, July 8, 1800, when he vaccinated successfully six members of his own family with virus received the previous June from Dr. Haygarth of Bath, England. Later these patients were inoculated with smallpox, at the request of Dr. Waterhouse, by Dr. William Aspinwall, at his hospital in Brookline. None of them took the disease.

An epidemic of smallpox in Marblehead in the early spring of 1801 caused the council of the Massachusetts Medical Society to pass this vote at its meeting on April 29 of that year:

*"Voted, That a committee be chosen to go to Marblehead and enquire respecting the Cow-pox and causes whereby the Small-pox succeeded it and became general there."*

It seems that a case of variola in that town had been followed by an epidemic of the disease, the initial case having been mistaken for one of the patients who had been recently vaccinated. The committee appointed by the society consisted of Isaac Rand, John Warren and Waterhouse. A controversy arose over the fact that no official return was made by this committee, Dr. Waterhouse going so far as to carry the matter into the public press. At the next meeting of the council, June 3, 1801, the record has these entries:

*"As two of the Cow-pox committee were prevented from going to Marblehead, no official return was made of their doings, and the letters received by*





the Corresponding Secretary prevented the necessity of any further attention to that subject. *Voted*, That the President and Recording Secretary be requested to publish such answers of the physicians of Marblehead as they shall think proper."

The last vote has reference to an entry in the records of the society, January 22, 1801, as follows:

"At a meeting of the Society the Recording Secretary, was directed to send to the Vaccine Institution for cow-pox matter — and the Corresponding Secretary to write to the physicians of Marblehead respecting the cow-pox and introduction of small-pox into that place."

At the next meeting of the society letters were received from Dr. J. D. Treadwell, Dr. Elisha Story, and Dr. Thomas Manning; also a letter from Dr. Waterhouse on the same subject. These were referred to the council which met the same day and voted as noted above. The records make no further reference to the matter of vaccination. The following May, Waterhouse made his "Memorial to the Board of Health of Boston" following James Jackson's unsuccessful attempt in June, 1801, to have that board conduct experiments with vaccination.

During its first period of twenty years the society had admitted ninety-five fellows; in the year 1802 the total membership was sixty-seven fellows, three less than the greatest number authorized by the charter; during the twenty years it had had six presidents, seven vice-presidents, four recording secretaries, three corresponding secretaries, three treasurers and three librarians, many of these officers serving in more than one capacity. Only about thirty fellows carried along the affairs of the society, as officers, members of the council and committees; among them the incorporators were much in evidence in the first years. These faithful ones had the interests of the society much at heart, spending a great deal of time in working for it. They would attend a meeting in the morning and be on hand at an adjournment in the afternoon, as the custom was. Regular meetings were held at least three times a year and many council meetings in addition. The State had been growing in population and in the number of practitioners of medicine through these twenty years; the time had come for expansion of the medical society and for a change in its organization.

## BIOGRAPHIES

EDWARD AUGUSTUS HOLYOKE (1728-1829), first president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, centenarian, was born in Marblehead, Massachusetts August 1, 1728, and died in Salem, March 31, 1829, thus living to the great age of one hundred years and eight months, lacking one day.

His ancestor, Edward Holiock, as it was spelled in the records, emigrated from England and was a Freeman in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1638. His father, Edward Holyoke, minister at Marblehead, who was born in Boston and graduated from Harvard College in 1705, was elected president of the college in 1737 and presided over its destinies for thirty-two years, until his death in 1769. Edward Augustus's mother, Margaret Appleton of Ipswich, a second wife, was descended from John Rogers, the first Smithfield martyr. Edward Augustus was the eldest son and the second of eight children. When nine years old, his father moved to Cambridge to take up his duties of president of the college, and here the boy received his education, finally graduating from the college with the class of 1746.

In 1747 he began the study of medicine with Dr. Berry of Ipswich, and remained with him nearly two years, settling in Salem in 1749, to pass the rest of his life there in the practice of medicine. At first patients were few and far between, and he found it hard to gain a livelihood. In the course of time, however, it was said that there was not a single house in town to which he had not been called at some time, as physician.

In all the affairs of life, Dr. Holyoke was most methodical and industrious, and during busy days he would snatch up a book to occupy a few moments of leisure, between visits. Because he found that his patients were in the habit of summoning him after he had gone to bed at night, he acquired the custom of sitting up late, and, so one biographer says, of rising late in the morning, these hours — seven in summer and eight in winter — being specified as late. It is recorded that during a professional life of nearly eighty years he was never once at a greater distance than fifty miles from Salem, his longest journey being a trip to Portsmouth in 1749, when he was absent five days. When he was married in 1759, he was away from Salem for a week, while following the custom prevalent at the time, of "sitting up for company," in other words, with his bride, receiving the congratulations of their friends. Dr. Holyoke is reported to have said to a professional brother that this was "very tedious and irksome."

He was twice married, first to Judith, daughter of Benjamin Pickman, who with her only child died in 1756; and second to Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Viall, a Boston merchant. They had twelve children. Mrs. Holyoke died in 1802, and all but two of the children died before their father. A son, Samuel, became a musician, and at the age of fourteen composed the hymn "Arnhem." He was the author of several works on music.

Dr. Holyoke was below the middle height in stature, and was tough and wiry in build. In college he was interested in the athletic exercises of the day. A silhouette published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* pictures him later in life. In demeanor he was described as "dignified, mild, placid and agreeable." Essentially a family practitioner and not ambitious for public

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SILHOUETTE OF EDWARD AUGUSTUS HOLYOKE, FIRST PRESIDENT.





distinction, he found time for a good deal of reading of the medical literature of the time, probably in the long evenings after days of active practice. He was one of the original incorporators of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1781, called the first meeting, was elected its first president, serving from 1782 to 1784. He was again president in 1786-1787, refusing a reelection. His activity in reporting cases and meteorological observations added much to the life of the society during its early years. His practice was based on four drugs, mercury, antimony, opium and quinine, his prescriptions being put up under his own inspection, either by himself or by his pupils. He did little surgery and no major surgery, and during his entire practice is said never to have witnessed the amputation of a limb. As preceptor to thirty-five medical students, he was a prominent factor in medical education, before the days of medical schools.

Dr. Holyoke was the first person to receive from Harvard College the honorary degree of M. D. — in 1783 — and in 1813 Harvard conferred upon him the degree of LL. D. He was president, at various times, of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Salem Athenaeum, and the Essex Historical Society. His health was good until the last years of his life, when he suffered from occasional fainting spells. In a long letter to John F. Watson, Esq., of Germantown, written on his hundredth birthday, he says: "My health is good. That is, I have a good appetite and sleep as well as at any period of my life,—and thanks to a kind Providence, suffer but little pain, except now and then pretty severe cramps,—but my mental faculties are impaired,—especially my memory for recent events."

He was a constant observer of the external rites of Christianity, and habitually gave much time to theological inquiries, especially during the last forty years of his life, so that toward the end he derived much solace from his well founded religious convictions, and from the devotion of an unmarried daughter.

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COTTON TUFTS (1731-1815) was the youngest son and fourth child of Dr. Simon Tufts, Senior of Medford and Abigail Smith Tufts, and a brother of Dr. Simon Tufts, Junior, of Medford. He was born in Medford, May 31, 1731. His given name, Cotton, came from his grandmother, Mary, daughter of the Reverend Seaborn Cotton, second wife of Peter Tufts, Junior. The Tufts genealogy was: Peter, Senior, the immigrant, who settled in Charlestown about the year 1650; Peter, Junior; Dr. Simon of Medford and Dr. Cotton of Weymouth.

Early in life, Cotton evinced a studious disposition and was admitted to Harvard College when fourteen years of age. Here he took the degree of A. M. in 1749, and in 1785 the college conferred on him the honorary degree of M. D. After leaving college he taught school and then studied medicine with his older brother, Simon in Medford, and finally fixed his residence in Weymouth. According to a letter of Dr. Tufts, in the Fifield collection in the Boston Medical Library, this was April 8, 1752. In 1749 he was in Weymouth, for we find these entries in the diary of the Reverend William Smith, for that year. "Books lent, 1749. To Cotton Tufts, several books." "October 15, I preached. Mr. Thaxter and Cotton Tufts here." During the year

1751, the "Throat Distemper or Putrid Sore Throat" (diphtheria) was very prevalent and fatal among the inhabitants of Weymouth. The Reverend Mr. Smith records the death of nineteen children and four adults from this disease, between July 12 and November 15. October 5, he enters: "11 died this week, 6 in our parish, 5 in Mr. Bayley's," and November 21, "Fast Day at Mr. (James) Bayley's Parish on account of the throat distempers prevailing there. Mr. Cotton preached from 2 Jer. 30. 'In vain have I smitten yr children; ye rec'd no Correction,' and Mr. (Samuel) Porter P. M. fm. 2 Cor. 12, 8 and part of the 9, 'For ys thing I besought the Ld thrice that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee.'"

According to Thacher it is related that Dr. Tufts introduced a new and original treatment for the throat distemper that helped him make a successful start in practice.

He was married by the Rev. Mr. Smith, December 2, 1755, to Lucy Quincy, daughter of Colonel John Quincy, of Braintree, by whom he had one son, Cotton. His wife died, October 30, 1783, and he married Mrs. Susanna Warner of Gloucester, October 22, 1789. He had a large practice in Weymouth and the surrounding country. According to his diary he made frequent journeys to Boston and kept in close touch with his Brother Cotton in Medford.

It was while planning a state medical society in 1765 that the subjoined letter, found among his papers, in his handwriting but without signature or date, was undoubtedly sent out:

"Sir:

Divers gentlemen of the profession have met together for the friendly purpose of forming an association for the advancement of medical knowledge, promoting good will and harmony and discountenancing empirics. This meeting was in consequence of a paper wrote by an anonymous writer proposing such a scheme in which were invited as underneath. The meeting is adjourned to the first Wednesday in June at Gardiner's Tavern on Boston Neck at two o'clock p. m. The gentlemen have desired me to invite you to attend the same and join them in accomplishing so benevolent a scheme and any plan that you can suggest for the [word illegible] of such meeting will be kindly received. In behalf of the gentlemen I now act as scribe, and am,

Your Very Obedient Servant,

TO DR JOHN WILSON  
of Hopkington."

In 1780 he was one of the incorporators of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and he was a member of the convention to adopt the Constitution of the United States. In 1765 he wrote the spirited and patriotic instructions to the representatives of the town of Weymouth against the Stamp Act, and in 1784 he was a member of the Massachusetts Senate. Dr. Tufts was an incorporator of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1781, being the second vice-president of the society from 1785 to 1787, and its fourth president from 1787 to 1795.

From the first meeting of the Council of this society, July 18, 1782, through his term as president, thirteen years, Dr. Tufts was absent from only two of the forty meetings held during that time. A record of fidelity when it is





considered that he lived twelve miles away. He was chairman of the committee to draft the first by-laws of the society in 1782 and was a member of many of the important committees during the early years.

For more than forty years Dr. Tufts was deacon of the old North Church in Weymouth, and he was one of the trustees of Derby Academy in Hingham, besides being president of the Society for Moral Reform.

It is said of him that "In social life he was distinguished by urbanity of manner and courteous address; in conversation pleasant, interesting and instructive."

His death occurred in Weymouth, December 8, 1815. A very interesting and quaint oil painting of the doctor hangs on the wall of the Fifield Room in the Boston Medical Library, the gift of William Tufts Brigham, A. B., Harvard, 1862, of Honolulu, Hawaii. An attempt has been made to reproduce it here, even though time has not spared this sole remaining representation of an important man.

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### CHARTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Copied from the Act of the Legislature, passed in 1781 and printed, for distribution among the Fellows of the Society, in that year.*

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## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1781.

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### AN ACT

To incorporate certain PHYSICIANS, by the Name of  
*The Massachusetts Medical Society*

Preamble.

As Health is essentially necessary to the Happiness of Society; and as its Preservation or Recovery is closely connected with the Knowledge of the Animal Economy, and of the Properties and Effects of Medicines; and as the Benefit of Medical Institutions, formed on liberal Principles, and encouraged by the Patronage of the Law, is universally acknowledged:

Members of  
the Massa-  
chusetts  
Medical  
Society in-  
corporated.

*Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That Nathaniel Walker Appleton, William Baylies, Benjamin Curtis, Samuel Danforth, Aaron Dexter, Shirley Erving, John Frink, Joseph Gardner, Samuel Holten, Edward Augustus Holyoke, Ebenezer*

Hunt, Charles Jarvis, Thomas Kast, Giles Crouch Kellogg, John Linn, James Lloyd, Joseph Orne, James Pecker, Oliver Prescott, Charles Pynchon, Isaac Rand, Isaac Rand, Junior, Micajah Sawyer, John Sprague, Charles Stockbridge, John Barnard Swett, Cotton Tufts, John Warren, Thomas Welsh, Joseph Whipple, William Whiting, be, and they hereby are formed into, constituted and made a Body Politic and Corporate, by the name of *The Massachusetts Medical Society*; and that they and their Successors, and such other Persons as shall be elected in the Manner hereafter mentioned, shall be and continue a Body Politic and Corporate by the same Name forever.

Fellows of said Society empowered to choose their Officers to regulate the Affairs of the Society.

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the* Fellows of said Society may from Time to Time elect a President, Vice-President and Secretary, with other Officers as they shall judge necessary and convenient; and they the Fellows of said Society, shall have full Power and Authority, from Time to Time, to determine and establish the Names, Number and Duty of their several Officers, and the Tenure or Estate they shall respectively have in their Offices; and also to authorize and empower their President or some other Officer to administer such Oaths to such Officers, as they, the Fellows of said Society shall appoint and determine for the well-ordering and good Government of said Society, provided the same be not repugnant to the Laws of this Commonwealth.

To have one common Seal.

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the* Fellows of said Society shall have one common Seal, and Power to break, change and renew the same at their Pleasure.

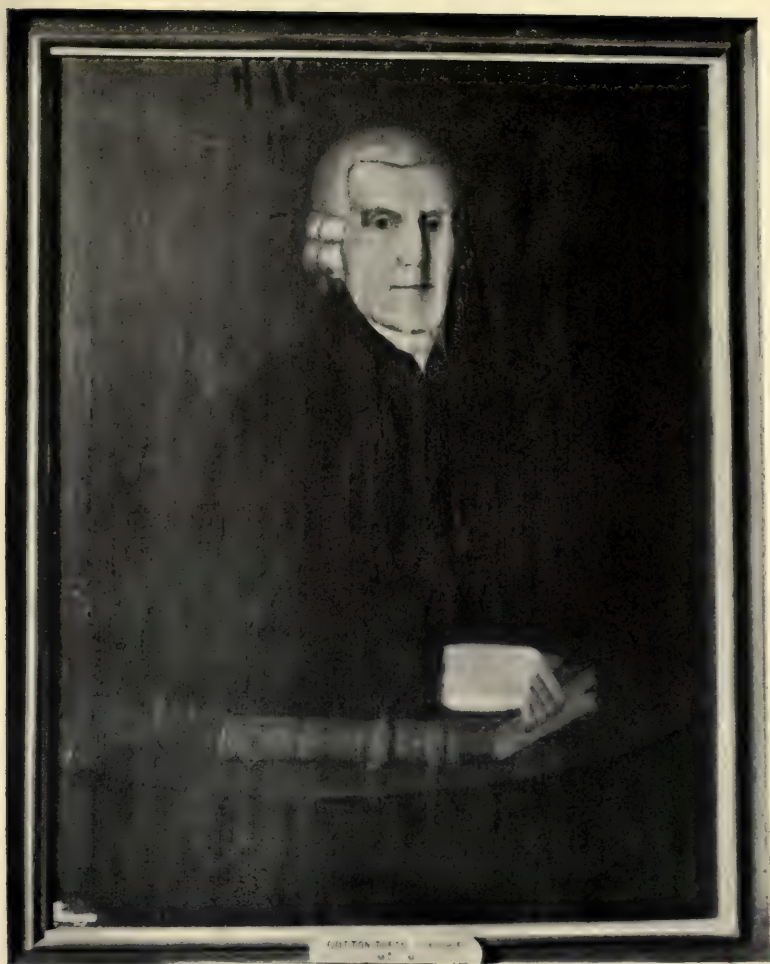
Subject to be elected by the Fellows.

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That they* the Fellows of said Society may sue and be sued in all Actions, real, personal or mixed, and prosecute and defend the same unto final Judgment and Execution, by the Name of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Persons to be elected by the Fellows.

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the* Fellows of said Society may from Time to Time elect such Persons to be Fellows thereof, as they shall judge proper; and that they, the Fellows of said Society, shall

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COTTON TUFTS

From the painting in the Fifeild Room, Boston Medical Library.

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have Power to suspend, expel or disfranchise any Fellows of said Society.

Fellows of said Society empowered to make Laws as are not repugnant to the Laws of this Commonwealth.

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Fellows of said Society shall have full Power and Authority to Make and enact such Rules and Bye-Laws for the better Government of said Society, as are not repugnant to the Laws of this Commonwealth; and to annex reasonable Fines and Penalties to the Breach of them, not exceeding the Sum of Twenty Pounds, to be sued for and recovered by said Society, and to their own use, in any Court of Record within this Commonwealth proper to try the same; and also to establish the Time and Manner of convening the Fellows of said Society; and also to determine the Number of Fellows that shall be present to constitute a Meeting of said Society; and also, that the Number of said Society, who are Inhabitants of this Commonwealth, shall not at any one Time be more than Seventy, nor less than Ten; and that their Meetings shall be held in the Town of Boston or such other Place within this Commonwealth, as a Majority of the Members present in a legal Meeting, shall judge most fit and convenient.*

Where their Meetings are to be held.

*And whereas it is clearly of Importance, that a just Discrimination should be made between such as are duly educated and properly qualified for the Duties of their Profession, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer Medicine, whereby the Health and Lives of many valuable Individuals may be endangered, or perhaps lost to the Community.*

President and Fellows empowered to examine all Candidates for the Practice of Physic, &c.

*Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the President and Fellows of said Society, or other such of their Officers or Fellows as they shall appoint, shall have full Power and Authority to examine all Candidates for the Practice of Physic and Surgery (who shall offer themselves for Examination, respecting their Skill in their Profession,) and if upon such Examination the said Candidates shall be found skilled in their Profession, and fitted for the Practice of it, they shall receive the Approbation of the Society in Letters Testimonial of such Examination, under the Seal of the said Society, signed*

by the President, or such other Person or Persons as shall be appointed for that Purpose.

In case of  
Refusal —

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That if the said President, and such other Person or Persons so elected and appointed for the Purpose of examining Candidates as aforesaid, shall obstinately refuse to examine any Candidate so offering himself for Examination as aforesaid, each and every such Person so elected and appointed as aforesaid, shall be subject to a Fine of *One Hundred Pounds*, to be recovered by the said Candidate, and to his own Use, in any Court within this Commonwealth proper to try the same.

Penalty.

Fellows of  
said Society  
deemed capa-  
ble in  
Law of hav-  
ing, holding  
and taking  
in Fee  
Simple.

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That the Fellows of said Society may and shall forever be deemed capable in Law of having, holding and taking in Fee Simple or any less Estate by Gift, Grant or Devise or otherwise, any Land, Tenement or other Estate Real or Personal; provided that the annual Income of the whole Real Estate that may be given, granted or devised to, or purchased by the said Society, shall not exceed the Sum of *Two Hundred Pounds*, and the annual Income or Interest of said Personal Estate, shall not exceed the Sum of *Six Hundred Pounds*; all the Sums mentioned in this Act to be valued in Silver at *Six Shillings and Eight Pence* per Ounce; And the annual Income or Interest of the said Real and Personal Estate, together with the Fines and Penalties paid to said Society, or recovered by them, shall be appropriated to such Purposes, as are consistent with the End and Design of the Institution of said Society, and as the Fellows thereof shall determine.

Proviso.

Edward  
Augustus  
Holyoke,  
Esq.; au-  
thorized to  
call the first  
Meeting.

*And be it further enacted,* That the first Meeting of the said Medical Society shall be held in some convenient Place in the Town of *Boston*; and that *Edward Augustus Holyoke, Esq.*, be, and he hereby is authorized and directed to fix the Time for holding the said Meeting, and to notify the same to the Fellows of said Medical Society.

In the House of REPRESENTATIVES, October 30,  
1781.



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Kindness my Health failing, and but little probability of my being able to attend in future to the Duties of my office, as President of the Society, I must therefore decline continuing in it any longer, and do now resign it; having my Mind deeply impressed with a sense of my obligations to the members of the Society for the Honors which they have repeatedly conferred upon me, and for the Candor which they have exercised towards me.

Having borne a Part in the Concerns of the Society from the earliest Stage of its Existence to the present Day, I cannot but feel, interested in its Welfare, and an affectionate Regard for its Members, whose Friendship I have long experienced, and for which I beg them to accept of my grateful Acknowledgments.

On this Occasion, permit me to observe, that nothing







## FOUNDING — CHARTER OF SOCIETY 67

THIS Bill having had three several Readings, passed  
to be enacted.

Nathaniel Gorham, *Speaker*.

In SENATE, November 1, 1781.

THIS Bill having had two several Readings, pass'd  
to be enacted.

Samuel Adams, *President*.

Approv'd,

JOHN HANCOCK.

A true Copy,

Attest,

John Avery, *Secretary*.

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## CHAPTER III

### THE REORGANIZATION IN 1803 AND THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

**A**T a meeting of the society on January 5, 1803, Dr. J. D. Treadwell of Salem being among those present, it was

*"Voted, That a committee of five be now chosen for the purpose of taking into consideration the present state of the society and whether any alterations in the Institution are expedient and to report the 19th instant."* "Drs. Rand, Warren, Welsh, Brooks, Dexter were appointed the committee."

At the special meeting held by adjournment at James Vila's (the Concert Hall), on January 19, at which were present the following members: Rand, Dexter, Warren, Brooks, Spooner, Hayward, Kast, Treadwell, Rand 3d, Danforth, Holbrook, Whipple and Welsh, the report of the committee was read, debated and then laid on the table.

*"Voted, That the society apply to the General Court at their present session that the limitation of the number of the society be removed, and for an extension of its powers and privileges."*

Then follows this entry:

*"Articles to be prayed for in the petition to the General Court: 1st. That the number be enlarged as the society may see fit. 2d. That the members be exempted from military duty."*

*"Voted, That a committee of five be chosen to draught the petition. Drs. Rand, Brooks, J. Bartlett, Warren, & Dexter were appointed to this committee."*

*"Voted, That the committee have power to draught & present said petition without conferring with the society."*

At the next meeting, April 28, the committee reported in the following language:

*"Having attended the duties assigned them they beg leave to report the following Act as the result of their proceedings with the advice of such medical gentlemen and other members of the Legislature as they thought proper to consult."*

(See end of this chapter for the Act of 1803.)



So much for the records. Let us see how it all came about.

An extract from the Memoir of Dr. James Jackson by Dr. James Jackson Putnam will explain who were the prime movers in getting the new act, which has existed with only slight modifications up to the present, proof that it has met the varying conditions of nearly a hundred and twenty years. Dr. Jackson wrote:

"Within a few months after his admission to the society (he was admitted June 3, 1801) Dr. Treadwell came to me and communicated the outline of a plan which he had long had very much at heart. He had, in fact, aided by a legal friend, Mr. Sewall, afterwards chief justice of our Commonwealth, drawn up the bill, which, with some modifications, was subsequently passed as an Act of our Legislature on the 8th of March, 1803."

The memoir goes on: "Dr. Jackson became at once interested in the scheme, and devoted himself warmly to carrying it into effect."

The "Dr. Treadwell" was John Dexter Treadwell of Salem. He was the son of the Rev. John and Mehitabel Dexter Treadwell of Lynn, where he was born, May 29, 1768. After graduating from Harvard College in the class of 1788 he apprenticed himself to Edward Augustus Holyoke, of Salem, for the study of medicine, as the custom of the time demanded of those who would practice the art. It was for the space of three years. Finishing his novitiate Dr. Treadwell practised in the town of Marblehead, near at hand, for another three years and then returned to Salem for the rest of his life. He must have heard a good deal about the state society from Dr. Holyoke, its first president, who had finished his second term of service the year before Treadwell began to assist him. Treadwell was a man of strong individuality and extensive learning, being versed in the Greek and Hebrew scriptures. Ultimately he had a large practice. Impressed with the need of broadening the scope of the Massachusetts Medical Society he collaborated with his friend Samuel Sewall of the Harvard class of 1776 and drew the bill which was later submitted to the legislature.

Dr. Treadwell was instrumental in getting a committee to consider his bill. On the day he died in Salem, June 6, 1833, the council of the society happened to be in session when the news was reported to them. They passed a resolution in which it was stated that the members had

"great respect for the character, talents and professional learning of their late associate, and a high sense of his services to this society; especially in its renovation in the year 1803."

Dr. Treadwell was present at many of the meetings of the society succeeding the reorganization; he served as councilor of the Essex District, one of the active districts at that time, from 1805 to 1828. With Dr. Holyoke and Dr. Fisher he revised and made over the by-laws of the parent society in 1805. Harvard conferred on him the honorary M. D. in 1815 and he became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1804 he married Dorothy, daughter of Jonathan and Dorothy Ashton Goodhue, and their son, Dr. John Goodhue Treadwell, was a prominent practitioner of Salem, a fellow also of the society his father had helped so much to rejuvenate, and the donor of the Treadwell Library at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. John Dexter Treadwell and James Jackson were friends. Treadwell had preceded Jackson by eight years in college; both had been pupils of Edward Augustus Holyoke.

John C. Warren and Jackson were close friends also, Warren representing surgery and Jackson medicine; they had been intimates in college, had studied together abroad. Arriving in Boston at about the same time, when young practitioners were few in number, they made "an arrangement to inform each other of any causes of discontent," so wrote Warren, "and thus we maintained an amicable association for more than forty years, working together and devising plans for improvement." What an excellent example of coöperation! It resulted in the formation of a private society for the study of natural philosophy in 1802 that lasted six years. It had ten members and Jackson acted as secretary besides giving a course of lectures on chemistry in the winter of 1802-1803. Warren lectured on anatomy and physiology. In 1803 these two young practitioners were chosen members of the Monthly Anthology Club, an organization formed to establish a reading room, a library of reference and to publish a magazine. It was the precursor of the Boston Athenaeum. They organized also the Boston Society for Medical Improvement in the same year, that existed for about six years, to be revived and incorporated in 1839. This first society for Medical Improvement formed the nucleus of the first Boston Medical Library of 1805. In 1806 Warren and Jackson were concerned in the founding of the Friday Evening Society of eight members, a mixed club, partly scientific and partly social. Three years later both were active in organizing the Boston District Medical Society, a forerunner of the Suffolk District Medical Society, which began its regular existence in 1849.

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SILHOUETTE OF JOHN DEXTER TREADWELL, WHO WAS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1803





Let us not forget to mention that the Harvard Medical School was moved to Boston in 1810, that Warren was adjunct professor of anatomy in the school after 1806, and that the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery* was founded in 1811, both Warren and Jackson being strongly interested in this publication. Jackson became Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the school in 1812, while the plans were being perfected to open the Massachusetts General Hospital. These two men wrote a pharmacopoeia for the state society in 1807, a work which was published the following year, bringing great credit to the society for issuing the first standard book of the sort in America.

So it will be seen that Warren and Jackson were a driving force in the advancement of medicine at the time the Massachusetts Medical Society was placed on a new basis and was starting on an enlarged career. The lives of these leading Boston practitioners, as set down respectively by J. J. Putnam and J. G. Mumford, will be found at the end of this chapter with brief biographies of the other men who were important factors in the life of the society in the years before and succeeding the reorganization.

At the first meeting of the council after the passage of the new act of the legislature of March 8, 1803, a meeting held on April 28, 1803, six men were approved for membership, to be balloted for at the next meeting of the society, among them being John C. Warren. Then a committee of six was appointed to "determine what officers are necessary & what rules and regulations shall be established to govern the society in future." The society met on the same day, elected the six candidates who had been recommended by the council, read the act of the legislature by paragraphs and accepted it. Thirteen fellows were present. It was voted to divide the Commonwealth into four districts, the middle, southern, eastern and western. The middle to consist of Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Middlesex; the southern, of Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket; the eastern, of the district of Maine, and the western, of Hampshire, Berkshire and Worcester. Three fellows in each district were appointed a committee to "ascertain who are deserving of becoming fellows."

Another meeting of the society was held on May 12, attended by fourteen fellows, at which a balloting list of new fellows was made and routine business transacted. Then, at an adjourned meeting on May 31, new fellows were elected. According to the Charter

Book there were fifty-five new fellows admitted in the year 1803. At the first stated meeting of the society under the new act, held June 1 of that year, at which twenty-five members were present, the corresponding secretary was instructed to call the attention of elected members to the last paragraph of the first section of the act, which required that all new fellows should subscribe to the by-laws within one year of the date of their election, also that no person should vote by proxy until he had so accepted fellowship. It was decided that the council should consist of forty members for the present, and at an adjourned afternoon session on the same day forty were elected; the number fifteen was made a quorum in order to transact business at annual meetings; the old by-laws were to remain in force until new ones were established, and the names of the members of the society then living were to be published by the secretaries in the *Centinel & Chronicle*, a Boston newspaper.

At this point it may be well to sketch in brief the provisions of the new act, the complete text being printed at the end of this chapter. The number of fellows was to be unlimited, any "respectable practitioner" who had received the approval of the council becoming a fellow; provision for filling the ranks from all over the state by vote of the society, as already constituted, being contained in the first article; the annual meeting was to elect as many councilors as seemed fit, and was to revise, alter, enlarge or repeal the by-laws as a majority of the fellows present voted; the council was to hold three stated meetings a year, in Boston, was to elect the officers of the society from among its members, elect five censors for the examination of candidates for licensure as practising physicians, and elect new fellows at any of its stated meetings but only after three months' nomination, provided that such new fellows subscribed to the by-laws within a year after election. The machinery of conducting examinations by the censors was carefully defined and a plan developed by which the Commonwealth was to be divided into districts, a new district being formed on the application of any five fellows. Any district might apply for a board of five censors, such censors being authorized to examine and approve candidates for practice, just as in the case of the main board of censors. The district societies were to report to the council all cases thought to be important from a medical point of view, they were to be under the regulations of the parent society,





in respects where the general society was concerned, and they were to elect their own officers and make their own by-laws, so long as not conflicting with the by-laws of the general society. Finally, the fellows of the society were not to be liable to be enrolled or mustered in the militia of the state.

As has been stated, the society and council began at once to take measures to make the reorganization effective. The first draft of new by-laws, transcribed by Josiah Bartlett, Aaron Dexter and Thomas Welsh after having been presented to the council by John Warren, Dexter, Spooner, Welsh and Thomas Danforth, was read paragraph by paragraph and adopted by the council on June 15, 1803. At a meeting on October 19 the plan of having an annual oration was broached by a committee to consider the proper business of the council and of the society. In accordance with this idea the first oration was delivered by Isaac Rand, then president of the society, at the annual meeting in 1804, he having been chosen by the council at that same meeting. The council was

"to propose subjects as they thought proper for the attention of the district societies, such as the histories of epidemics, tables of births and deaths, diaries of the weather etc., to be communicated to the council for further disposal."

The council was to select from the communications on their files such papers as they thought proper to be read at the annual meetings of the society; at such annual meetings, after the councilors had been elected, they should listen to the annual discourse on some medical subject, or to such communications as the council might make, either in the form of papers or communications on matters having to do with the general interests of medical science in the state.

The society held a special meeting on December 28, 1803, at which the by-laws were adopted and a committee of three, Josiah Bartlett, Dexter and Welsh, were directed to publish them with extracts from the acts of the legislature affecting the society. This resulted in the pamphlet published by Samuel Etheridge, of Charlestown, dated "January 1, A.D. 1804." It consists of twenty-four pages and is so sketchy, especially as regards the portions of the laws printed, that we are not surprised to find that another edition, full and accurate, should be issued from the press of Joshua Cushing, of Salem, in 1806. The copy of the latter, in the files, has the autograph of James Jackson on the title page. His friend John D. Treadwell had been made a member of a com-

mittee of three, at a meeting of the council on June 8, 1805 — Holyoke, Fisher and Treadwell — "to inspect, review and report the by-laws." Treadwell reported for his committee in October, the report was recommitted, presented again with amendments by Dr. Fisher in February, 1806, amended again, once more recommitted for a fair copy to be made, and finally submitted to the society by Dr. Holyoke on June 4, 1806, and adopted. Therefore Treadwell had to do not only with the making of the act of reorganization but with the by-laws as well. These by-laws were in use for ten years when they were revised by a committee consisting of Thomas Welsh, J. C. Warren and John Dixwell.

On June 6, 1804, the council having elected John Warren president, he was inducted into office, holding the position for eleven years and dying while yet administering the affairs of the society. The old guard still had a hand in the management of affairs. Of the fourteen original founders Rand, Jarvis, Kast, John Warren, Welsh, Erving, and Whipple were councilors in 1804, Warren being president, Kast treasurer and Whipple corresponding secretary. Among the other founders mentioned in the completed act of 1781 we note these names in the list of councilors for that first regular year after the reorganization: Dexter, Holyoke, Sawyer, Hunt, Baylies, and Cotton Tufts. This annual meeting of 1804 was held in the "Library Room" or "Franklin Hall" in Franklin Place, the subsequent gatherings being held there until 1810 when rooms in White's building at 49 Marlborough Street, the building where the Harvard Medical School had moved, were occupied. The council met at Vila's tavern or hotel, as it was variously called, or in the room of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, until 1810.

The town of Boston was practically rebuilt between 1790 and 1815, according to Samuel Eliot Morison (*Maritime History of Massachusetts, Boston, 1921*), in a distinctive style of Federal architecture. He quotes a Boston Loyalist who returned for a visit in 1808 as follows:

"The great number of new and elegant buildings which have been erected in this Town, within the last ten years, strike the eye with astonishment, and prove the rapid manner in which people have been acquiring wealth."

The population of the town had increased in 1810 to 33,787 from 18,320 in 1790. Many fortunes had been made by trade with the West Indies and with other parts of the world. Concert Hall, or Vila's Tavern, suffered many changes in its structure during a long





life, finally to be demolished and give place to Hanover Street widening in 1869. James Vila moved to Concert Hall from the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, at the corner of State and Kilby Streets in 1789, according to S. A. Drake (*Old Landmarks of Boston*, 1874). Brattle Street was not cut through from Court Street to the "church" (Brattle Square Church) until 1819. After such a length of time one now finds it hard to picture Court Square as it was at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Two outstanding events in the early years of the new society were the compiling and publishing of the pharmacopoeia of the society and the resumption of the publication of the medical communications. The pharmacopoeia had its beginning in the following vote of the council, October 3, 1805:

*"Voted, That a committee be raised to draw up & lay before the Counsellors at their next meeting a pharmacopoeia, or formulae for the preparation of compound medicines with names affixed to the same, to be called the "Massachusetts Pharmacopoeia." "Drs. Dexter, Holyoke, Jackson, J. C. Warren, & Oliver were chosen on this committee."*

At the next meeting Dr. Dexter, chairman of the committee, reported verbally that as they had not obtained a full meeting of the committee he had requested Dr. Jackson and Dr. J. C. Warren to attend to the business as individuals. These two presented a plan for a pharmacopoeia and after their report had been accepted they were requested to report at the next meeting. Dr. Warren reported progress in June, 1806, and was thanked and requested to proceed. At last the manuscript was laid before the council on June 4, 1807, was accepted and ordered printed for the society and it was voted that the same committee, Warren and Jackson, be a committee to attend to the printing and the disposal of the completed work. The book appeared in 1808, a modest volume of 272 pages. A contemporary historian said of it:

*"It effected a complete change in the language of a branch of medical science; it produced an exactness in the names of medicinal substances, and a protection in their preparation, which have greatly relieved practitioners of medicine, and contributed to the safety of the community."*

In the first volume of the *Medical Communications of the Massachusetts Medical Society*, published in 1808, is this statement under the head of "Medical Intelligence, &c.":

*"The Pharmacopoeia of the Society has been adopted by the apothecaries in Boston and throughout the state, so far as we are informed; and with most*



cordiality by the most eminent of them. There is therefore good reason to expect we shall avoid the embarrassments and dangers, which have been produced by a multitude of names and by the variations in strength of the same preparations of medicine made by different apothecaries."

Two years after the appearance of the Pharmacopoeia was published James Thacher's American New Dispensatory, a fourth edition of which came out in 1821. Meanwhile Lyman Spalding of Portsmouth, N. H., a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, had read a paper before the New York County Medical Society on January 6, 1817, setting forth the need of a National Pharmacopoeia. He received a letter from J. C. Warren, dated March 21, 1818, in which Warren informed him that the Massachusetts Medical Society had appointed a committee at its last meeting to revise the Massachusetts Pharmacopoeia. This committee had received a request from the New York State Medical Society to coöperate in the making of a national pharmacopoeia, and the Massachusetts society had voted coöperation. The following year Dr. Warren read a long report of progress and the council authorized its committee on the pharmacopoeia to send a delegate to the national pharmacopoeial convention. The first edition of the "Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America" was published in Boston, December 15, 1820, and thereupon the place of a state publication of this nature had been taken by one of a broader scope. We should not lose sight of the importance of the first pharmacopoeia, however, and should estimate at their true worth the labor and perseverance that went to that pioneer undertaking. All praise to Warren and Jackson for their accomplishment.

Although the records show many votes indicating the purpose to publish further instalments of the Medical Communications the society was poor and someone had to do the actual work of getting the papers into shape for the printer. Most practitioners, as well as a large number of the members of all communities, consider that such work takes care of itself. No knowledge or training are necessary. Any bright American can do anything, if he only turn his mind to it. Be that as it may, it was the duty of the council to select such of the papers that had been sent in by fellows, for the purpose of publication, the duty being set down in Chapter II of the By-Laws of 1806. In that year the society had the services of active progressives in the persons of J. C. Warren, recording secretary, and James Jackson, treasurer. They had had the project

of publishing medical communications in mind for a long time; they were workers and had acquired a knowledge of writing. The result was the appearance of No. 2, Part I, Vol. I. of the Medical Communications, dated 1806, a pamphlet of fifty-six pages, containing six articles from the pens of Joshua Fisher, Oliver Prescott, Richard Hazeltine, James Thacher and John C. Warren, Fisher providing two papers. This was the first publication of these communications since 1790, sixteen years. Two years later appeared Part 2, No. 2 of Vol. I., eleven articles comprised in sixty-seven pages, followed by ten pages of the report of a committee on the requirements for fellowship and "Medical Intelligence and Notices." All three series, or three parts, were bound together in a half sheep volume as "Volume I, Medical Communications of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Boston. 1808. Published by the Society." The acts of incorporation, a list of officers, the by-laws and a list of fellows formed parts of this first volume. A council vote of April 10, 1811, informs us that Richard Hazeltine, of Berwick, prepared the index and table of contents of the first volume.

Volume II, a book of 562 pages, containing a list of fellows and nineteen papers, came from the press of Thomas B. Wait of Boston in 1813. In this was the sketch of medical progress by Josiah Bartlett, delivered before the society at its annual meeting in 1810.

The further progress of the medical communications will be found set forth in the chapter on Publications. Suffice it to mention here that they had received a new start through the energy of Warren and Jackson, following the reorganization of the society.

An important happening of the early years of the reorganized society was the attempt of physicians opposed to the established order, those on the outside who could not get in, those with personal grievances and individual ambitions, to form a rival medical society to be called the "Massachusetts College of Physicians." The matter came to a head in 1811 when twelve physicians presented the following petition to the legislature on February 18:

"To the Honourable the Senate, and the Honourable the House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, this petition most respectfully sheweth:—

"That seeing health is a blessing, which sweetens all our enjoyments; and long life that which all men naturally desire, so every thing that tendeth to secure the one or leadeth to the other, is an object worthy the attention of the Legislature.



"And considering, moreover, that of the various methods of obtaining and diffusing medical knowledge, not one is found so effectual and desirable as a friendly and liberal intercourse and honourable associations of its professors; more especially when their end and aim is mutual improvement and public good; and experience has proved that two literary and scientific bodies produce more than double the advantage of one —

"Influenced by these sentiments, we your petitioners humbly pray the Honourable Legislature to constitute us, and such as may hereafter associate with us, a body politic and corporate, by the name and title of the Massachusetts College of Physicians; with such powers, privileges and immunities, as other medical associations of the like nature and views enjoy, under the same denomination, in several states of the Union.

"And your petitioners shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Thomas Williams, Samuel Danforth, Marshall Spring, Nath. Ames, William Aspinwall, John Jeffries, James Mann, Charles Winship, Abijah Draper, Joseph Lovell, Jacob Gates, William Ingalls."

As regards this list of names it should be said that when it became evident that the project had aroused violent opposition and that politics ran rife, the following withdrew their names before the hearing on the petition was given by the legislature in 1812: Thomas Williams, Samuel Danforth, Nathaniel Ames, William Aspinwall and John Jeffries, while five new names were added in the persons of Benjamin Waterhouse, professor of theory and practice at Harvard, — always happiest when in the opposition, — Leonard Jarvis, Edward Whitaker, Daniel Thurber and Nathaniel Prentiss, men of no particular prominence, so far as can be learned. The Legislature referred the petition to the next General Court. During the ensuing year, before the hearing opened in February, 1812, there was much excitement both at Harvard and in the Massachusetts Medical Society, for the granting of a charter to a College of Physicians would mean a cutting loose from traditions of high standards in medicine, and the founding of a new medical school that might attract students by methods that had proved disastrous under similar conditions in Philadelphia and New York — in fact, a letting down of the bars that heretofore had excluded from the ranks of the profession the unworthy. The corporation of Harvard appointed as a committee to appear in protest before the legislature John Thornton Kirkland, the president, and John Lowell, a fellow; the council of the Massachusetts Medical Society as a similar committee, who were to prepare a memorial and attend the hearing: John Warren, David Townsend, Aaron Dexter, Thomas Welsh, Josiah Bartlett, William Spooner and Benjamin Shurtleff.



James Jackson represented the Harvard Medical School, and assistance was given the opposition by John Brooks of Medford, H. H. Childs of Pittsfield and Thomas Kittredge of Andover. The original protest of June, 1811, is copied from the document in the Bowditch Book.

PROTEST AGAINST THE INCORPORATION OF THE COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS

*Boston, June, 1811*

From Bowditch Book. Vol. 1, page 85.

"To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Senate, and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts —

The Massachusetts Medical Society, in consequence of an application to the General Court, in February last, for the incorporation of a College of Physicians, beg leave, respectfully to represent.

That the said Massachusetts Medical Society was established in November 1781 with power to elect officers, examine & license candidates for practice, hold Estate, and perpetuate its existence as a body corporate. In June 1782 the Society was organized agreeably to the provisions of the Statute, and the members directed in every way to extend and increase its usefulness. By an additional act of the General Court in February 1789, authority was given to point out and describe such a mode of medical instruction as might be deemed requisite for Candidates previous to examination, which important duty has been constantly attended to, and occasionally revised. By a further additional act in March 1803, as the Society was thought too limited to answer the purposes of its establishment, its constitution was so essentially changed, that the number of Fellows, originally limited to seventy, may embrace all respectable Physicians and Surgeons resident in the State, and that District Societies may be established, in such places as will facilitate medical improvement, and prevent the inconvenience of applying in all cases to the Censors in Boston for examination.

In consequence of this provision, several District Societies are formed, and are in a prosperous condition; cultivating medical Science, and qualifying Candidates, in various parts of the Commonwealth; it has been the constant endeavour of the Society, without reference to local or political considerations, to admit the most respectable practitioners in every section of the State, and they are desirous to elect all others of known talents, who by accident or from any other cause are not admitted.

The number of Candidates licensed for practice by the Society, is more than eighty, all of whom as well as all Bachelors of Medicine in Harvard University, may claim admission as Fellows of the Society after three years practice. The present number of Fellows exceeds two hundred. Publications of important cases communicated to the Society; of a Pharmacopoeia, which is now in general use; and of Dissertations read at the meetings, have been made as

often as the funds would possibly admit; Committees have been appointed to investigate the nature, causes, and cure of epidemics, and the result of their enquiries communicated to the public. The greatest harmony has distinguished their proceedings. No mention was ever made, as has been insinuated, of regulating fees in practice. The sole object of the Society has been to promote the design of its institution, and the Fellows have been led to believe, by the constant patronage and support of the Legislature, as well as by the public voice that their conduct has been approved.

It is scarcely necessary to remark that from the state of Medical Science at the Incorporation of the Society, its progress for several years was slow, and that it was less useful than could have been wished, but by the aid and coöperation of the flourishing Medical School at the University, it is at this time in a most prosperous state, and it is the united endeavour of all to promote medical instruction and to discourage unworthy practices.

It is found on examination that the petition on the files of the General Court, for a College of Physicians, is for similar powers and privileges with this Society on the ground that "two literary and scientific societies would produce more than double the advantages of one." The Society presume not to dictate to the Legislature, on this important subject; but they beg leave respectfully to offer an opinion, that the establishment of such an institution, can effect no object, not accomplished by existing societies; and would be so far from promoting a laudable and useful emulation, that Candidates rejected by one society would resort to the other, with the greatest hope of success, whatever might be their qualifications for the proper exercise of their profession. Hence would arise disagreements and animosities, which in other parts of the United States, (particularly in Philadelphia at a former period, and very recently at New York,) have been injurious to the profession, and to the public. Such animosities were threatened in the infancy of this establishment by a supposed interference of Harvard College with the rights of the Society, and would have produced the most unhappy effects, but for the repeal of an exceptionable article in that establishment, and the accommodating conduct of those who at that period, were the guardians of science, and the patrons of the healing art.

From these considerations, and from other circumstances, which the Medical Society are prepared to state, they have thought it an incumbent duty to request that the prayer of the said petition should not be granted, and they as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Boston, June 1811.

At the annual meeting of the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society held on the 5th day of June 1811, the following members being present, viz:

(Here follows a list of seventy-two fellows headed by the names of John Warren, Joshua Fisher, Cotton Tufts, Lemuel Hayward, David Townsend and Thomas Kittredge.)

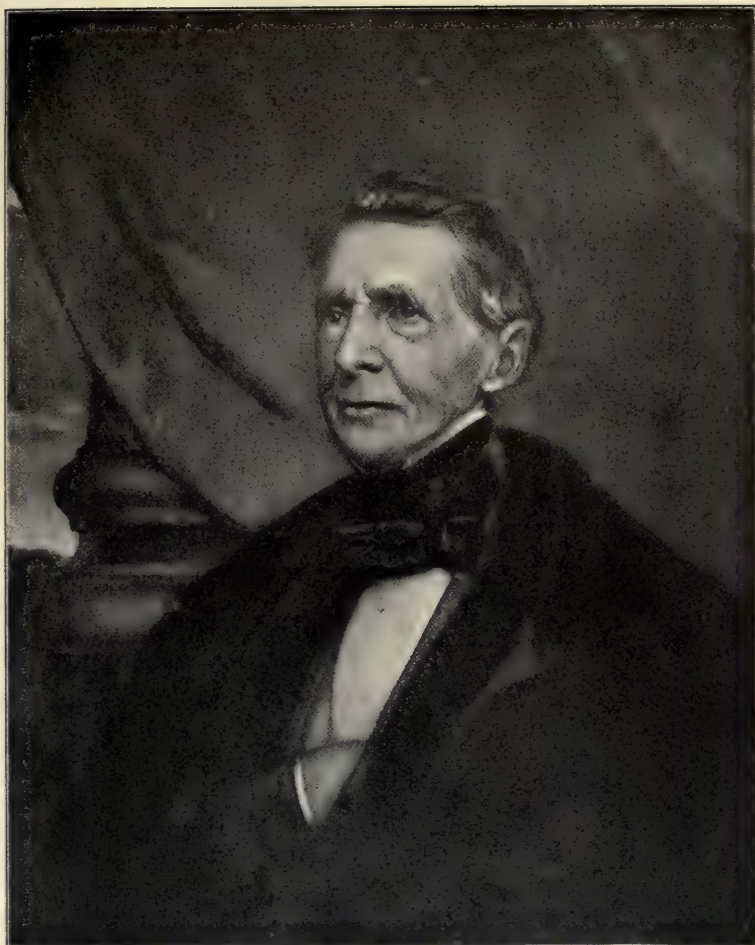
The above memorial was read, accepted with one dissenting voice, and ordered to be presented.

John Warren, *President.*

Attest.

John C. Warren, *Recording Secretary."*

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John C. Warren —

A. B. 1797; A. M.; M. D. (Hon.) 1819  
Vincennes Professor Anatomy and Surgery 1809-1815  
Harvey Professor Anatomy and Surgery 1815-1847  
Professor Emeritus 1847-1886  
Dean Medical School 1816-1819.

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The council met from day to day during February, 1812, and at last on February 19 received this report from its committee:

"The Committee to present & support the remonstrance against the granting a petition for an incorporation to be styled a "College of Physicians" beg leave to report that a long and patient hearing was had on the subject before a joint committee of the General Court, who reported that the petitioners have leave to bring in a bill, which was accepted in the Senate by the casting vote of the President; but after repeated trials was non-concurred by the House of Representatives."

The committee advised watchfulness in the future that the rights of the society were not infringed and a committee was appointed to draw up an address from the council to the fellows of the society with a view to making them more perfectly acquainted with the work transacted by the society and council and with their views, interests and objects.

Incidentally the petition led to the dismissal of Benjamin Waterhouse from the faculty of the Harvard Medical School, a last straw, it would appear, in a long course of inharmonious relations with his brother professors, for on November 8, 1811, John Warren, Aaron Dexter, John C. Warren and James Jackson presented a letter to the corporation asserting that they were unwilling to have further intercourse with him. Waterhouse must have been impossible or these well-balanced men would not have taken such positive action. He was removed from office as professor of medicine by the President and Fellows on May 20, 1812, for disloyalty to the school and lack of harmony with his associates on the faculty of medicine, after hearings to all the parties concerned.

The establishment of district societies which should be tributary to the parent society and stimulate interest in its aims in the different sections of the state began soon after the reorganization, the act of 1803 having provided the machinery for the forming of such societies. The first was the Boston District Medical Society, authorized in 1803; a shadowy affair that never became a real district society under the provisions of the by-laws, for it made no reports to the council or society. It made a fresh start in 1809 and held meetings until 1813, then to sink out of sight until the establishment of the Suffolk District Medical Society in 1849. In 1804 the Essex Southern and the Worcester districts began their existence. They were real societies and have taken important parts in the life of the society up to the present time. Berkshire started

a district society in 1807, made a fresh start in 1818, and held regular meetings as a subsidiary society after its charter was accepted in 1820. The Hampshire district society had its origin in 1831, Bristol South in 1839, and Barnstable and Hampden in 1840. The other district societies to be formed previous to the redistricting of the state in 1850 were Essex North in 1841, Middlesex North in 1844, and Bristol North and Suffolk in 1849.

Today there are eighteen districts, four more than the number of counties in the state. In the early part of the nineteenth century there were frequent memoranda in the records of the council expressing the opinion that more district societies should be formed. As a matter of fact they were organized slowly. There were several abortive attempts to start societies, notably that for Lincoln and Cumberland in 1804 and for Norfolk in 1806. In 1831 Hampshire was the fourth district actually to be formed. It did not appear to the members of a district society at that time that they gained any particular advantages. The dues had to be paid to the district treasurers who were allowed to retain five per cent of the amount collected, for their own use; the members received nothing, except, latterly when they could consult a certain number of books out of the central library of the society in Boston that were deposited with the district. It was not until 1832 that the plan was put into effect of giving to the districts dividends out of the receipts from the collection of annual assessments by their treasurers. This question will be discussed a little later. Meanwhile the reader may consult the chapter on the District Medical Societies for an account of the manner in which these parts of the state society were founded severally.

The year 1831 marked a critical period in the history of the society. Trouble was brewing in the Berkshire district, which had been legally in active operation since 1820. Henry Halsey Childs (1783-1868) an able son of Pittsfield, had organized the Berkshire Medical Institution in that town in 1823. As a medical school it had become a rival of Harvard Medical School by 1831. In the year 1830 Harvard graduated twenty-one men in medicine while the Berkshire Medical Institution graduated twenty-four. Such men as Chester Dewey, John P. Batchelder, Josiah Goodhue and Gilman Kimball were professors in Pittsfield. Childs had served two years in the legislature and was to be lieutenant-governor; he





had vision, energy and push, besides possessing a knowledge of public affairs. As we have just seen, he helped oppose the petition for the founding of a College of Physicians in 1812. On December 7, 1830, a petition had been filed in the legislature by Childs and forty others asking that the Berkshire district might be separated from the Massachusetts Medical Society and formed into a District Society, for the reasons that they were a great distance from the meeting of the parent society, thereby losing the advantages of medical association, the use of the library, a share of the funds and participation in public entertainments; that the Berkshire district society had been "in a state of declension" for several years; that they could not comply with the by-laws; that the regulations of the board of censors were oppressive; that the members were near medical societies in neighboring states, whose privileges they could enjoy for less expense. In the event that their petition were granted the district would contain at least sixty active members.

The council appointed a committee to draft a memorial to the legislature protesting against the granting of the petition, setting forth that the Berkshire society had no real grievance, that the dues of fellows who had "fallen into impoverished circumstances" had been promptly remitted, that the parent society had been disposed always to grant assistance to the district societies, that an independent society could not accomplish so much for the public good as the large state society, with its branches that maintained a uniform standard of qualifications for the practice of medicine. The petition was not granted but it led to a clause in the by-laws of 1832 giving to the district societies the privilege of collecting the dues of their members and to appropriate one third of the amount so collected for the use of the libraries of the districts, provided said districts agreed to distribute the publications of the society. In this year of 1832 the state was divided into ten districts and councilors were elected from these districts by the parent society at its annual meetings.

By 1837 the districts were allowed to retain a third of the amount they had collected without any specification as to its use, except that they should, as before, distribute the publications. It was in this year that the secretary of the Berkshire district notified the secretary of the parent society that the Berkshire society had dissolved seven years before, as had been predicted it would.

Still, the society appeared to maintain some sort of existence and later on was in good working order.

The district societies were not placed on a stable basis until 1850 when they were given a direct voice in the management of the society, in the election of councilors and censors, and in the use of a definite share of the funds of the society collected from annual dues.

On March 19, 1831, the legislature passed an act rescinding the previous requirement that candidates for fellowship in the society should have passed at least three years in "approved practice of medicine and surgery." It also authorized the treasurer to sue for debt, in the name of the society. This was the first act of the legislature concerning the Massachusetts Medical Society since the act of February 19, 1819, defining the duties of the censors and dividing the state into five districts for the purpose of making a board of censors for each district. The act of 1831 did away with the old apprentice system so that the way was clear for graduates of medical schools to become fellows.

We are come now to a time of trial of the society originating in the first expulsion from membership, by vote of the society on May 25, 1836, of John Stephen Bartlett who three years later brought charges against the society in a memorial to the legislature asking that its charter be declared null and void. The memorial was the subject of hearings by two committees of the General Court, excited much interest in the community and helped to stiffen up the views of the profession on the proper functions of a state medical society. It so happens that the files of the society contain all of the papers in the case of John Stephen Bartlett, M.D. *versus* The Massachusetts Medical Society, including Bartlett's memorial, a printed column of fifteen inches of small type, filed March 13, 1839, the printed report of the first committee containing the evidence in the case, but no opinion, — a pamphlet of fifty-five pages, — and the manuscript fourteen-page report of the second joint special committee of both houses, dated March 17, 1840.

It appears that John S. Bartlett, then of Marblehead, a graduate of Harvard Medical School in the class of 1831, joined the society in 1833. On May 4, 1836, charges were made against him at a special meeting of the council, and a special committee of three, consisting of A. L. Peirson, Samuel Johnson and David Osgood,

was appointed to investigate and report on the charges, which were that Bartlett, then residing in Boston,

"in a paper denominated the *Boston Pilot*, of which he is joint editor, in the number of said paper issued on the 12th of March, 1836, did recommend to public confidence and patronage, by an elaborate communication, under his own signature, an irregular practitioner, by the name of John Williams, thereby violating the eighth by-law of the society which declares that 'any person who is engaged in the practice of medicine or surgery in this commonwealth, not being a fellow or licentiate of this society, nor a Doctor in medicine of Harvard University, shall be deemed by the fellows of this society, an irregular practitioner;' . . .".

This by-law provided further that any fellow who advises or consults with such an irregular practitioner or abets or assists him in any way, shall be disqualified for one year from giving his vote at a meeting of the society or of a district society, shall be liable to censure and reprimand of the council, and in aggravated cases to expulsion.

At the meeting of the Society, May 25, 1836, the committee reported and the society, after reciting in preambles the above facts, continued:

"and whereas, the said Bartlett has been in the habit of frequently consulting professionally with another person, who is not a regular practitioner of medicine, according to the laws of this commonwealth and of this society; and the said Bartlett having on several public occasions openly avowed these acts and professed his determination to persevere in the commission of the same, in defiance to his promised obedience to the by-laws of this society . . . And, whereas, the present instance being of shameful publicity, and one of those aggravated cases for which the law contemplates the penalty of expulsion; and the same Bartlett, having had an opportunity given him to lay before the society a refutation of the charges or a defence of his conduct in the premises; Therefore *Voted*: That Dr. J. S. Bartlett, of Boston, be expelled from this society and his name erased from the list of its fellows."

Such radical action caused a petition to the legislature in March, 1839, in which Bartlett, after detailing who he was and what had happened to him at the hands of the society, said he was prepared to prove before a committee of the General Court that the charter of the Massachusetts Medical Society was null and void for the reasons that,

"in the charter and by-laws are contained articles incompatible with the provisions of the Constitution of this Commonwealth—and that they contravene the prior rights and privileges of Harvard University, by annulling, under certain circumstances, the rights granted by its faculty."



There were three other charges setting forth that the organization of the society was highly detrimental to the best interests of the community, that there was reason to apprehend "a moral dereliction among the rising members of the profession," the effect being to increase, to an alarming extent, dangerous quackery. The petition closed with a request for a special committee to investigate the charges. Such a committee, of seven members, was appointed by the Legislature and proceeded to hold a series of hearings.

The committee to represent the society at the hearings was: James Jackson, George C. Shattuck, Rufus Wyman, John Homans and S. D. Townsend; they were represented as counsel by Peleg Sprague for the opening hearing and subsequently by Franklin Dexter, while Bartlett's interests were cared for by Benjamin F. Hallett. The committee of seven held ten meetings, closing on account of the ending of the session of the legislature, without hearing the arguments of counsel. They reported the evidence that had been presented but expressed no official opinion. The next legislature appointed another joint committee of House and Senate to pass upon the evidence that had been presented and printed in the report, and on any further evidence they might discover. They examined the documents in the case, heard Dr. Bartlett, notified the president of the society that they would be glad to hear again from the society — he replying that the council directed him to say that they were ready to trust to the legislature, which had all the facts before them — and rendered a report, dated March 17, 1840. After analyzing the evidence presented they closed their report

"with a recommendation that the petitioner have leave to withdraw his memorial, inasmuch as the matter was chiefly personal to the petitioner; when they received the news of the sudden death of Dr. Bartlett. His days are past — his purposes are broken off. They are induced by this event to conclude that no further action of the General Court is necessary thereon."

Reading over the evidence given at the ten hearings it appears that John Williams was an English physician who had received degrees abroad; he stayed a relatively short time in a given city, saw mostly cases of blindness and deafness; asked a patient for fifty or a hundred dollars down at the time of the first consultation and an equal amount in the event of cure; poor patients had to pay the minimum fee before he would treat them. Some of his patients were former patients at the Massachusetts Charitable Eye

and Ear Infirmary afflicted with hopeless blindness, according to the testimony of Dr. Edward Reynolds, of the staff of that institution. When patients stopped coming Dr. Williams moved to another town; according to the testimony of several patients he had treated he was commercial minded, selling optimism at a high price to those who, on inquiry, had the money. There was nothing especially unusual about his methods of treatment so far as could be determined, though they were not disclosed. The outstanding feature of the hearing was the defence of the society by Dr. James Jackson; it occupied eleven pages of the printed report; he cross-questioned witnesses and was himself subject to question and cross-question. The matter of consulting with irregular practitioners was an important subject under discussion. The opinion seemed to be prevalent in many minds that the provisions of the eighth by-law were too severe, a view which is held universally today.

Probably at that time it was necessary to separate thus carefully the sheep from the goats; today the matter takes care of itself, for the most part; those who are ethical belong to the state society and are supposed to remain ethical until the contrary has been proved, the society keeping a lookout through its committee on ethics and discipline for those who stray from the straight and narrow way.

In this connection it will interest us to glance at an old document in the files, dated May 27, 1851, being a report of a committee to consider the question

"whether the fellows of the society are at liberty to consult with physicians, who, having received such an education as is contemplated in the third by-law, are not fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

The committee was headed by A. L. Peirson, who had been on the committee to examine J. S. Bartlett in 1836, the other members being: J. C. Dalton, William Workman, Henry L. Sabine and John Ware. The report was handed to the council in May, but not considered until October, when it was read, discussed and laid on the table. The committee had been appointed in February of that year at the instance of Dr. Peirson. They were of the opinion that the third by-law had the intent of permitting consultations with "practitioners of respectability, having a medical education conformable to the standard required by the society, without having reference to the question of fellowship"; they saw the difficulty that must arise from making a distinction between the graduates

of Harvard and the Berkshire Medical Institution and those of all other schools; they thought that the matter of consulting and the determination of the qualifications of those who had declined fellowship should be left to each district society. The report ended with this sentence:

"Your committee, therefore, unanimously agree that, according to the present by-laws, the fellows have a right to consult with any practitioner whose education conforms to the standard required for admission into the society as stated in the 3d by-law."

It may be that the above report was laid on the table — as it was — for the reason that their recommendations had been already incorporated in the revision of the by-laws of 1850, although not in those exact words.

Dr. Jackson had been a fellow since the year before the reorganization, thirty-seven years, he had been president seven years, vice-president two years, treasurer four years, and had been on many important committees. This leading practitioner, sixty-one years old, made an impressive appearance at the hearings in the Bartlett case while he took up the cudgels for the good name of the society for which he had already done so much.

Dr. Jackson's defence of the society, his brief history of its accomplishments, especially since the reorganization, is well worth reading today. He and Warren, working in harmony, had made a deep impression on medical progress in their native city in the first half of the nineteenth century; they had brought the Harvard Medical School to Boston and found for it suitable accommodations; they had organized the Massachusetts General Hospital and connected it with the school; they had reorganized and democratized the state medical society and carried it forward to greater usefulness. They were no longer young men; Jackson had resigned his position in the medical school in 1836 and in the hospital the next year; Warren was to retain the Hersey professorship in the school until 1846, the year of the first etherization at the hospital, when he had the courage at the age of sixty-eight to demonstrate to the world a method that was to revolutionize surgery; both men rounded out preëminent careers in the fellowship of the old society they loved.

Action was taken both by the society and by the council on the question of vaccination at the annual meeting in May, 1838, that calls up the attitude of the Massachusetts Medical Society on this



important question during its entire life. One remembers the misunderstanding in 1801 with Benjamin Waterhouse, who, by the way, was credited with uncomplimentary remarks about the society at the hearings before the legislative committee on the J. S. Bartlett case in 1839. Dr. Jackson stated at one of these hearings that Waterhouse had not been regarded as a fellow since 1806. There is a letter from Waterhouse in the files dated June 30, 1806, to the recording secretary, in which he says that he had not paid dues because he had not attended meetings, except now and then, for the previous fifteen years; he was unwilling to pay the annual assessments and did not regard himself as a fellow. By a vote of the council in 1807 all the dues of deceased, resigned or retired fellows were remitted and in the catalogue of that year Waterhouse's name was marked with a dagger, which signified resigned or retired, the terms being loosely used at that time. It was so carried through the catalogue of 1832. From his distinguished services as the introducer of vaccination and as a pioneer professor in the medical school no one cared to put the status of his membership to the test, when all memberships were a trifle indeterminate. It was known that he had difficulty in supporting his family—membership dues might be the last straw.

As has been recited in a previous chapter a committee on the cowpox, consisting of Isaac Rand, president, John Warren, vice-president, and Benjamin Waterhouse, was appointed by the council, January 7, 1801, to go to Marblehead to inquire whether the epidemic of smallpox in that town had followed inoculation of cowpox. The matter was cleared up by letters received from the practitioners of Marblehead. As two members of the committee had been prevented from going to that town it was thought unnecessary to make any formal report. This did not satisfy Waterhouse and he followed his custom of making himself disagreeable. On February 3, 1808, the council appointed the following committee:

“to inquire into the present state of the evidence respecting the prophylactic power of the cowpocks, and to report such measures as they may find to be expedient for establishing the practice on a safe foundation:”

The president, John Warren; the vice-president, Joshua Fisher; Aaron Dexter; James Jackson and John C. Warren. The report, which was presented to the society at the annual meeting, June 1, 1808, was signed by all except Fisher, so we may understand that

he did not serve on the committee. When printed in the first volume of the Medical Communications the report took up fifty pages, — too long to enter here. It was a thorough survey of the literature, especially the results obtained in the Original Vaccine Pock Institution in London and by a committee of the Royal College of Physicians, in a series of experiments at that institution in the year 1807 and earlier. The report closed with these resolutions which were adopted unanimously by the Massachusetts Medical Society:

*"First* — That in the opinion of this society persons who undergo the cowpock are thereby rendered as incapable of being affected by the virus of smallpox, as if they had undergone the latter disease."

*"Second* — That it is to be feared that in the early and even in some of the late practice of inoculating for the cowpock the disease may not have been produced in the most perfect manner, and particularly in cases, where the inoculators have not been well instructed in this practice, nor been accustomed to observe the appearances of cutaneous diseases."

*"Third* — That the most perfect and absolute security is to be derived from subsequent inoculation; and in all cases in which the operation was performed before inoculators had sufficient experience on this subject, as in the years 1800, 1801 and 1802, it is indispensably necessary to ascertain the security by this test."

*"Fourth* — That it be and it hereby is recommended by this Society, that all persons who have been vaccinated, especially at the period alluded to above, call on those who inoculated them to perform a second inoculation; for which service the fellows of this society will not charge any additional fee."

This report was published in four newspapers in the town of Boston, so that the citizens might know the stand that had been taken by the society on a subject that was vital to everyone.

The question of vaccination came to the fore again in the year 1837, when a committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society was appointed by the council at its February meeting to petition for certain changes in the state laws regarding smallpox. It was thought that it was unnecessary to order the removal of all persons suffering with the disease from their homes and to cut off the approach of the public by "displaying red flags and other means," because "vaccination is in most cases a preventive of small pox, and in the few instances in which small pox appears in persons who have been vaccinated, it is almost uniformly mild, and rarely, if ever, fatal." This quotation is from the report of the committee to the legislature, dated April 15, 1837. The report is signed as follows: John C. Warren, John Randall, James Jackson, Benjamin

Shurtleff, Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward, Edward Reynolds, John Homans, Enoch Hale, John Ware, H. I. Bowditch, Samuel A. Eliot, James Savage, Jno. B. Wales, John K. Simpson, George Bond, Charles G. Greene, Charles Jackson, H. G. Otis, George C. Shattuck. As some of these names are not those of medical men we may suppose that the committee associated itself with prominent citizens in its petition. The following resolutions were passed by the council at its meeting on June 1, 1837, after being presented by Dr. Warren, chairman of the committee:

*"Resolved*, That it is desirable to effect such a modification of the laws on the subject of smallpox, as would allow persons affected with this disease to remain in their own houses.

*"Resolved*, That the Counsellors of this society feel undiminished confidence in the influence of vaccination in preventing the contagion of smallpox."

At the annual meeting of the society the next year—May 30, 1838, Dr. George Hayward, a member of the committee, introduced the following resolutions and they were passed:

"The Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, feeling undiminished confidence in the protective power of Cow Pox, have learnt with great satisfaction, that the Legislature of this Commonwealth, at their late session, have repealed all the sections of the Revised Statutes relating to the Small Pox. This measure, however, makes it important that means should be adopted to render more general the practice of vaccination, so as to give our fellow-citizens the best possible security against a loathsome and oftentimes fatal disease."

"It is therefore *Resolved*, That this Society will, at the annual meeting in May, furnish to all its Fellows who may apply for it, vaccine virus, free of expense; and the Counsellors are requested to adopt measures to carry the resolution into effect."

*"Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of every Fellow of this Society, to vaccinate gratuitously in each Monday in the month of June annually, all persons who may come to him for that purpose, and who are unable to pay the usual fee."

*"Resolved*, That the Recording Secretary be directed to give publicity to these resolutions, by inserting them in the newspapers in which the advertisements of the Society are printed, and in any other way that the Counsellors may think proper."

The resolutions were adopted unanimously and next day Dr. Hayward, chairman of the committee that had been appointed to procure a modification of the laws relating to smallpox, reported to the council, furnishing an attested copy of the act of the legislature—passed partly through the exertions of two of the fellows of the society, members of the General Court and of the committee to which the subject had been referred,—expressing the belief that



the matter of vaccination was at last on a proper footing in the state.

So far as known these resolutions, passed in 1838, have not been repealed; the society is still in favor of vaccination for smallpox. Valuable papers on the subject have been read before the society since that time by S. W. Abbott, Horatio Adams, W. N. Swift and J. H. McCollom, while in recent years yeoman service has been done before committees of the legislature by H. C. Ernst, G. W. Gay and S. B. Woodward in combating the yearly efforts of the antivaccinationists to overthrow the existing laws which safeguard the public against the inroads of that dread disease.

The proposition to obtain laws which would permit dissection of the human body was originated at a meeting of the council, February 4, 1829, on motion by A. L. Peirson by this vote:

"That a committee be appointed to prepare a petition to the legislature, to modify the existing laws which now operate to forbid the procuring of subjects for anatomical dissection, and to report the same for the consideration of the Society at their annual meeting in June."

The committee was J. C. Warren, E. Alden and A. L. Peirson. They reported to the annual meeting and the subject was referred to a large committee of nine made up of A. L. Peirson, J. C. Warren, J. D. Wells, John Ware, William Ingalls, Nathaniel Miller, G. C. Shattuck, Nehemiah Cutter and John Brooks. The committee reported to the council in October that they had prepared a circular letter to the fellows and recommended a petition to the legislature at its winter session. A copy of the one page circular has been preserved. It is dated, Salem, Sept. 1, 1829, and was signed by seven members of the committee, namely: Peirson, Ingalls, Warren, Shattuck, Brooks, Wells and Ware. Under five headings the chief advantages of permitting dissection are set forth: that anatomical knowledge is absolutely necessary in all branches of medicine; that this knowledge can only be acquired by dissection; the poor are especially dependent on medical skill; that many of the paupers have become dependent on the public bounty because of disabilities caused by lack of proper surgical care; that the profession of medicine deprecates the violation of the sepulchres of the dead, a practice common in Europe, and would suggest that the bodies of persons unclaimed by relatives or friends be devoted to anatomical purposes, under proper regulations. Every fellow was asked for his views on the subject.

In February, 1830, the council authorized the committee to print a new edition of the circular, not exceeding ten thousand copies, with such additions and alterations as they might think expedient. An act was passed by the legislature in 1831 legalizing the study of anatomy, thus marking an important advance for the practice of medicine in Massachusetts. Three years later, on February 5, 1834, the council appointed a committee of three to suggest amendments to the act; they were J. C. Warren, George Hayward and John Homans. It appeared that under the act only the bodies of state paupers could be used for dissection and that the number had not been sufficient to supply even the medical schools, on the whole less than the number that had been obtained before the passage of the act; that the time allotted for retaining the subject before its delivery was so long as often to impair its usefulness for dissection; that in the city of Boston application for a body had to be made to three separate boards, and finally, that if the term "state pauper" were abolished, as had been suggested in the legislature, the number of bodies would be still further diminished. The committee reported to the society on June 4, 1834, that an amendatory bill had been passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor April 1, 1834, and they offered a copy of this bill of five sections to the meeting. It was called: "An ACT in addition to An Act, more effectually to protect the Sepulchres of the dead, and to Legalize the Study of Anatomy in certain cases." After providing penalties for desecration of graveyards, tombs and monuments it provides, in section 3,

"That it shall be lawful for the board of health, overseers of the poor, and selectmen in any town in this Commonwealth, and for the directors of the house of industry, board of health, overseers of the poor or mayor and aldermen of the City of Boston, to surrender the dead bodies of such persons as it may be required to bury at the public expense, to any regular physician, duly licensed according to the laws of this Commonwealth, to be by said physician used for the advancement of anatomical science; preference being always given to the medical schools that now are, or hereafter may be, by law established. . . ."

Then follow stipulations to the effect that care shall be exercised not to so give over any body that may be claimed by relatives or friends, that the physician receiving a body shall give a bond that he will use it for the purposes for which it had been given, that the remains shall be decently buried, and that the body of no person who had requested burial, during his or her last illness, shall

be surrendered for dissection. In effect it is the anatomy act of today. All credit to the energetic fellows of the society who caused the bill to be passed by the General Court. The council thanked John Brasier Davis, Esq., who died in the spring of 1833, "for aiding the society in promoting the legalization of the study of anatomy and thus effecting an important change in the state of medical science."

The relation of the Massachusetts Medical Society to the American Medical Association is a subject of considerable interest. As everyone knows, the first convention of the national organization was held in Philadelphia in May 1847. What is not generally known is that the Massachusetts Medical Society received a letter from the New York State Medical Society on May 29, 1839, recommending the holding of a "National Medical Convention." The letter was referred to the council which reported next day recommending that delegates be sent to such a convention, but at the October meeting of the council, following, the vote was reconsidered. Six years later the New York State Medical Society sent out a circular, dated February 6, 1845, advocating a National Medical Convention on the first Tuesday in May 1846, in New York, for the purpose of taking some concerted action toward forming a national association. All medical societies, colleges and medical institutions in the United States were invited to send delegates. Dr. N. S. Davis, of Binghamton, N. Y., added a postscript to the circular that was sent to the secretary of the Massachusetts society by the secretary of the New York society, saying that he hoped that a national medical society would be formed and he thought that "the prospect is now very fair for a full and interesting convention." Alas! The committee to which the circular was referred by the council, Enoch Hale, J. V. C. Smith and John Homans reported through Dr. Hale and Dr. Homans in February, 1846, that they could not "perceive in the proposed general medical convention such a promise of good to be accomplished by it as to induce them to recommend that our society should take a part in it." They thought that every measure of reform or improvement must be adapted to local conditions; so they recommended that no delegates be sent. We know that transit facilities through the United States had been poorly developed at that time; in 1850, Massachusetts had half the number of miles of completed railway it was to have in 1910; Connecticut, something over a third; New





York, less than a fifth, while Illinois had 110 miles in 1850 and 11,878 in 1910. Therefore the means of getting to and from a convention in 1846 — it was held finally in Philadelphia — were far from ample, involving considerable expense and loss of time, especially to delegates from New England. Nevertheless in the following year, when the first meeting of the national association was about to be held, the council voted to send delegates to Philadelphia, and these men were appointed to attend, from the society at large: S. W. Williams of Deerfield, Enoch Hale of Boston, Elisha Huntington of Lowell, Royal Fowler of Stockbridge, A. L. Peirson of Salem, J. V. C. Smith of Boston, Joseph Sargent of Worcester, Z. B. Adams of Boston, O. W. Holmes of Boston and G. C. Shattuck of Boston; also from the medical districts: Lyman Bartlett of New Bedford, E. W. Carpenter of Chatham and William Bridgman of Springfield, thirteen all told. The delegates reported to the council in October through Dr. Peirson. Leaving out the preamble the report is reproduced here as of sufficient interest after an interval of seventy-five years to let us know how the beginnings of the great organization impressed our delegates. The original manuscript, signed by Dr. Peirson and Dr. Adams, has been followed, checked by the manuscript minutes of the council:

"The subject of medical reform has long engaged the attention of many distinguished medical men in our country, but nothing very effectual had been attempted until the meeting of the preliminary convention, held in New York in 1846, at which committees were appointed to make reports upon subjects regarded as the most important to the well being of the community, as well as to our profession throughout the country. The printed and widely circulated reports of the late convention at Philadelphia display an acknowledged ability in treating these several subjects, and it only remains for individuals and medical institutions throughout our country, who are sincerely desirous to endeavor to elevate medical character, to coöperate heartily with the measures proposed at that convention. The only power of this convention consisted in faithfully representing the public opinion of the medical fraternity. It did not assume any power of coercion. Its resolutions were mainly recommendatory; but it is hoped that upon examination, the measures proposed will be considered of such general utility that they will commend themselves to the favorable opinion of the profession at large. The spirit which animated this convention may be inferred from the fact that it consisted of more than two hundred individuals delegated by the incorporated medical institutions of twenty-three states, some of whom came from a distance of nearly a thousand miles, at their own expense. The character of such a body may well command the respect of their medical brethren throughout the union. The practical results of its recommendation remain to be seen. In the preparation of the reports which were presented and received the action of the convention it is evident that

much careful thought was bestowed upon the subjects treated, and we believe that the doings of the convention will be read with interest and will tend to promote the welfare of the community and elevate the character of the medical profession. With these views the delegates of the Massachusetts Medical Society to the late medical convention at Philadelphia recommend the following resolutions: 1. *Resolved*, That the counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society cordially approve the formation of the American Medical Association. 2. *Resolved*, That delegates be appointed to attend the next meeting of the American Medical Association. 3. *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed at this meeting to ascertain the number of delegates to which this society is entitled, to nominate a list of the same, and to report at the next stated meeting of the counsellors."

The resolutions having been acted on severally were adopted and G. C. Shattuck of Boston, J. O. Green of Lowell and Josiah Bartlett of Concord were appointed the committee to carry out the third resolution.

In the year 1848 the Association met in Baltimore, the Massachusetts Medical Society being allowed fifty delegates by the rules of the Association. These were appointed by a committee, as before. Boston was the place of meeting in 1849 under the presidency of Alexander Hodgdon Stevens of New York. The state society appointed a committee of arrangements of which J. C. Warren was chairman. He delivered the address of welcome at the Lowell Institute and on the following day was elected the third president of the Association. The total attendance at this session was six hundred and fifty-eight, including many noted men. Dr. Alfred Stillé of Philadelphia and Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch of Boston were elected secretaries. Delegates were chosen by the district societies yearly to the annual meetings of the Association, which met again in Boston in 1865. In a subsequent chapter we shall have something to say about this meeting and also about the quarrel with the national society in 1870.

Happenings of interest in the period we are examining were the attempt to publish a quarterly journal of medicine in 1847, the appointment of the first committee of arrangements for the annual meeting of the society at an adjourned meeting of the council, February 20, 1849, the organization of the Suffolk District Medical Society in that year, the districting of the state for district societies and the beginning of the trouble with the homeopathic practitioners, which was to culminate twenty-four years later.

The question of establishing a periodical journal has been set forth in the chapter on the Publications and need not be repeated



here. Enough to say that the project bore fruit ultimately in the purchase of the weekly *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* in 1921 by the society, to use in part as an official publication.

The first committee of arrangements originated in this vote: "Voted, That the President and Recording Secretary be authorized to appoint a committee of five to make arrangements for the Annual Meeting." "The following gentlemen were appointed, viz.: Drs. C. H. Stedman, J. V. C. Smith, Morrill Wyman, G. A. Bethune and W. J. Dale." Therefore as early as 1849 it became evident that the planning and carrying out of the arrangements for an annual meeting required the services of a special committee. Such a committee has been appointed yearly since.

In the chapter on Police Duty and Discipline reference has been made to the case against Dr. Ira Barrows of Norton. The fact that he practised homeopathy was only one of several charges against him, but it was regarded as an important charge. Listen to this resolve submitted to the council February 6, 1850:

"Resolved, That all Homeopathic practitioners are, or should be, denominated irregular practitioners, and according to the By-Laws of this Society made and provided, ought to be expelled from membership. Resolved, That Ira Barrows, of Norton, a member of this Society, ought to be and by a vote of this Society is expelled from membership, for the following reasons:

- 1st. For being guilty of dishonorable conduct.
- 2d. For being the maker and vender at sundry different times of certain and several quack medicines.
- 3d. For being an irregular practitioner, having adopted the Homeopathic or Infinitesimal or Loaf sugar System."

The above somewhat violent finding, by Dr. Benoni Carpenter of Pawtucket, was laid on the table as to the first resolution and the second was referred to a committee of three, which reported favoring the expulsion of Barrows. He was later expelled in due course.

The newly formed Suffolk District Medical Society took a hand in the process of cleaning up the membership at the May meeting of the council in 1850, when Dr. Jeffries presented a memorial from that society relative "to certain members of the Society who had violated the laws." This was referred to a committee consisting of John Jeffries, C. E. Buckingham and J. C. Dalton with full powers to investigate, the committee recommending later that these cases of infraction of the by-laws be referred to the Suffolk District to try each offender. In the next chapter something will be said



about the further course of the case against the homeopathic practitioners.

The redistricting of the state took its origin from a preamble and resolution introduced by Henry Halsey Childs at the October meeting of the council in 1847. He thought that the county or district societies should be the basis of organization of the society, rather than the central body, the council; that delegates should be chosen by the county associations, as in the states of New York, Connecticut and Vermont. The resolution was referred to a committee composed of two from each district medical society. Subsequently two reports, a majority and a minority report, were submitted to the council in February, 1848. They had the effect of thoroughly arousing the society and causing the leaders to look about and see where policies of government were tending. The majority report, which was adopted by a vote of twenty-five to three, forty-two councilors being present, held that the primary object of the society was to effect a system of adequate and uniform education and to elevate the standard of professional intercourse among practitioners; that the simple and efficient plan of the society had accomplished all that was intended by those who drew the act of 1803; that although the Berkshire District Medical Society had complained that "the meetings, the funds and the library of the society were held, located and confined to Boston," more than one third of the parent society were usually present at the annual meetings and that eventually all the members of the profession, old and young, were brought into personal contact; whenever the society has been attacked in a public way, it had always shown before an intelligent Legislature, a strong and satisfactory claim to the confidence of the public; it had always obtained from the Legislature those reasonable requests, which from time to time it had made; therefore the organization of the past had proved itself the best for the society. This report was signed by twenty members of the committee headed by A. L. Peirson the chairman. The minority report, reciting the general proposition that the society needed reorganization, was espoused by Dr. Childs and signed by eight members, among them being Gilman Kimball and J. V. C. Smith. The result was a committee to examine the charter and by-laws and report what alterations, if any, were necessary. Therefore Dr. Childs's suggestion bore fruit but not in the way he planned, for the new committee, made up of some of the majority and some

of the minority committee and headed by John Ware, reported in May, 1848, pointing out that the greatest influence of the society had been exerted and its best effects produced in and around Boston, the center of its organization; those who were able to attend its meetings and take part in the management of its affairs were, of course, most interested in its prosperity, while those who lived at a distance naturally felt a less lively concern and hardly realized their actual connection with it, being called upon to obey laws with the making of which they had had no voice. The report referred to the action of the committee in 1839, composed of one from each district, Enoch Hale being chairman and John C. Dalton secretary, in recommending that councilors should be chosen by the society according to the districts, i.e., so many for each district. Although this plan had resulted in an improvement of the status of the districts, still, as the fellows who elected these councilors were from the region surrounding Boston the representation was not as complete as could be desired. Therefore the new committee of 1848 recommended that the councilors should be chosen by the fellows of the society in the several districts "at least one week before the annual meeting," a provision which later became "between April 15 and May 15." Should any district fail to elect councilors then the whole body of the council should supply the deficiency at its annual meeting. Councilors were to be elected in the proportion of one councilor to every eight fellows. Furthermore, the districts were to elect censors, five in each district, who were to admit new fellows to the society, thus removing this function from the council entirely. The annual meeting of the council was to be held on the day preceding the annual meeting of the society; the annual meeting of the society was to be held in such of the principal towns of the Commonwealth as the council should determine and provisions were made for a committee of arrangements. Other details of management were outlined, most of them finding a place in the by-laws of the year 1850, for the legislature passed an enabling act on February 18 of that year, authorizing the society to elect its councilors by its district societies, to hold the annual meetings in any of the principal towns of the state and the first stated meeting of the council in the same place, also to use the annual income of the permanent fund for current expenses. The annual meeting accepted the legislative act on May 29, 1850, and the by-laws, which had been revised at the



same meeting that they might conform to the act, and put them in force on the first day of August. The state was districted anew at this time and new district societies were formed. These will be found described in the chapter on the District Societies.

In this way was inaugurated a reform of far-reaching importance, for the council had become a truly representative body. The district societies chose their own councilors without dictation from the parent society. Means of travel through the state were being improved by the constant building of new railways so that it was no longer so much of an effort for councilors at a distance to attend the meetings of the governing body. They had themselves to blame if the laws enacted did not meet their approval, for were not they a part of the law-making body, bringing the behests of their constituents to its deliberations? In addition, the districts could pass on the character and attainments of the candidates for membership through censors that they elected at their own headquarters, another local self-government measure that has proved to be most successful in the working during the past seventy years.

The meeting-places of the society in Boston were many during the first half of the nineteenth century. We have seen that the society met in the rooms over White's drug store at 49 Washington Street after 1810. In 1814 an attempt was made to join with Harvard in the erection of the Mason Street building for joint use by the medical school and the society, the society always being on the lookout for a permanent home in a building of its own, or in one owned jointly with some other public-service organization. It was decided in 1814 that the proceeds of the sale of the township of land in Maine, presented to the society by the state, should not be used at that time for a building as the land would appreciate in value. We know that ultimately the township was sold and the proceeds put into the permanent fund. (See chapter, "Financial.")

On February 7, 1816, a committee was appointed by the council to obtain a lease of a suitable place for holding the meetings of the society — council and censors — and to deposit the library and records. As the minutes of the next meeting say that the library had been recently moved we are justified in assuming that a move had been made to the building of the Massachusetts Medical College in Mason Street, although the records of both council and society are strangely silent as to where meetings were held for the next eight years. The record for October 2, 1822, council records,





says the meeting was held "at the Medical College, Boston," and the next meeting of the society, in 1823, was "holden at the hall of the M. M. College, Boston." Agitation for new quarters began in 1825 when it appeared by a report of a committee composed of J. G. Coffin, John Dixwell and Jacob Bigelow that

"the committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of the Medical Society and of the Historical Society of Massachusetts have been informed that the sum of about six thousand dollars has been subscribed for the purpose of erecting a building on land belonging to the Athenaeum in Pearl Street, to contain a hall for lectures and one for the exhibition of statues and paintings; and that if the Academy and each of the societies above named will add three thousand dollars to the fund, the building may be so constructed as to afford each of them a convenient room for its library and for private meetings, while all public meetings may be holden in the lecture room."

The report goes on to describe the proposed building. The scheme did not materialize; the Athenaeum built the building without outside assistance and on February 22, 1827, executed a lease to the Massachusetts Medical Society of "the North East Room in the basement story of the new building belonging to the Athenaeum" agreeing to furnish fuel for heating on the days of the meetings and the use of the large hall "on public or solemn occasion of the Society" and to provide for the care of the books and other property of the Society for a rental of one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year. The first meeting of the society was held in the new quarters on Wednesday, June 8, 1827. The hall was called "the lecture room in the rear of the Athenaeum." The building was near the corner of High Street and was occupied by the Athenaeum until 1847 when it moved to its present building at 10½ Beacon Street.

The question of erecting a building for the society was revived in 1833 and again in October, 1834, a committee being appointed on the latter date to consider the expediency of procuring "better and more permanent accommodations." The committee felt that the funds of the society were not adequate. Again a committee for the same purpose was appointed in May, 1838, and next year Dr. Peirson broached the project of a joint stock company, in which the permanent fund should be invested, for the purpose of erecting a suitable building.

The annual meeting of the society was held in the Masonic Temple, corner of Tremont Street and Temple Place in 1839, in

1840 and in 1841. In the last year a definite arrangement was made for rooms in that building and the council held its May meeting there in a smaller room, the society meeting in the large hall. The headquarters were there until 1853 when the society met in the hall of the Lowell Institute in the rear of No. 233 Washington Street, and the council and library moved to a room in Phillips Place, which was on the north side of Tremont Street directly opposite Kings Chapel, on the site of a part of the building of Houghton and Dutton's Department Store.

The inadvisability of state medical societies making fee tables for their members' use has been referred to in the introductory chapter, citing the case of the New Jersey Medical Society which put out a fee table among its first acts after organization, thereby forfeiting the confidence of the legislature of that state. The Suffolk District Medical Society was organized in 1849. It early gave attention to the subject of a fee table. A committee, headed by Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, was appointed, debated the matter, reported to the Suffolk District, and had the question resubmitted to it with the request to consult the council of the parent society. The letter of H. J. Bigelow to the council, dated December 20, 1849, transmitting the report to the Suffolk District and a transcript of the vote of that society, attested by its secretary, E. W. Blake, have been preserved in the files. The report to the Suffolk District, which follows, was read to the council on February 6, 1850, and referred to the following committee: C. G. Putnam, H. I. Bowditch, H. J. Bigelow, all of Boston; A. Hooker, Cambridge; J. W. Bemis, Charlestown. On May 30, 1850, this committee reported to the council through Dr. Putnam, chairman, ending with this statement: "That the establishment of a fee-bill by the Suffolk District Medical Society is not supported by the laws."

#### "TO THE SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

The committee appointed to report upon the fee-table; upon article XXIV of the bylaws; and upon the expediency of adding to the bylaws an article inflicting a penalty for the nonobservance of the same, beg leave respectfully to report, That they have considered the subjects referred to them and that they have consulted various gentlemen conversant with the affairs of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and of the Boston Medical Association. That the Massachusetts Medical Society was chartered on the ground chiefly that "the benefit of medical institutions formed on liberal principles and encouraged by the patronage of the law is universally acknowledged." Also because it was thought "clearly of importance that a just discrimination should be made

ST. JOHN  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



MASONIC TEMPLE AND NORTH SIDE OF TEMPLE PLACE, SHOWING NUMBERS  
12 AND 36, HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOCIETY





between such as are duly educated and properly qualified for the duties of their profession, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer medicine, whereby the health and lives of many valuable individuals may be endangered or perhaps lost to the community." That it is the duty of the society "from time to time to describe and point out such a medical instruction or education as they shall judge requisite for candidates for the practice of physic and surgery" &c. In short that the duties of the Massachusetts Medical Society prescribed by their charter are to improve and maintain a standard of medical education and, in certain ways, to discourage quackery. On the other hand that the Boston Medical Association is a voluntary and not a chartered association of individuals who unite to establish a medical police, upon points of which the principal relate to their mutual professional intercourse; to their attitude towards, and to the fees to be exacted from, the public; and to the discouragement of quackery. That the Massachusetts Medical Society is established by the authority of the legislature to protect not only physicians, but the community, against the evils of inadequate or unsound medical education; while the Boston Medical Association is established by physicians for their own protection. It is plain that the objects of the two institutions are intrinsically different. The society professes to protect the community, while the association is a self protective body. Now the district medical society as a branch of the Massachusetts Medical Society, can possess no other rights than those delegated to it by the charter of the Massachusetts Medical Society. A district society, according to the act, is "a subordinate society" wherein the communication of cases "and experiments may be made, and the diffusion of knowledge in medicine and surgery may be encouraged and promoted," and such societies "may establish regulations for their particular government, not repugnant to the by-laws of the general society."

It would, in the opinion of your committee, especially militate with the intentions of those who granted its charter, if the Massachusetts Medical Society, in whole or in part, should adopt a by-law contemplating its own exclusive advantage or one which did not also afford an equally obvious and direct advantage to the community at large. Of this character, in the opinion of your committee, is a fee-bill or tariff of prices for medical attendance, which in fixing a minimum value for such attendance very properly tends to prevent the diminution of prices which might ensue upon competition.

Finally, the prime and immediate object of a fee-table is neither to improve medical education nor to distinguish regular from irregular practitioners. It was not therefore contemplated in the charter of the Massachusetts Medical Society. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that a fee-table prescribed to the Suffolk District Medical Society would be binding upon the medical practitioners of Chelsea. Upon these grounds the committee respectfully report that they consider it inexpedient for a district society to act upon a fee-table and recommend that the subject be referred to a committee of the Boston Medical Association. For the same reason, the committee believe it unnecessary to report upon an article inflicting a penalty upon the nonobservance of a system of police which is not, in their opinion, a legitimate sphere for the action of a district branch of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

For the committee  
(Signed) Henry J. Bigelow "

Let us pause here and consider the lives of some of the chief actors in the time following the reorganization in 1803.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**JOSHUA FISHER**<sup>1</sup> (1748-1833) was born in Dedham, Massachusetts, May 17, 1748. He graduated from Harvard in 1766, in the same class as Charles Jarvis. In 1804 Harvard conferred the honorary degree of M. D. on him. He had an impediment of speech due to a cleft palate for which he kept a removable silver plate in his mouth when speaking. The consequence was that his articulation, though singularly distinct, was painfully slow, and any modulation of voice would have been impossible. After graduating from college at the early age of seventeen he taught school in Rowley for two years. He then had a severe attack of pulmonary disease, which left him for a time an invalid. On his restoration to health he studied medicine with Bela Lincoln (M. D. Aberdeen) of Hingham. Dr. Fisher began practice in Ipswich, removed to Salem and finally took up his abode in Beverly, which was his place of residence for sixty or more of the eighty-four years of his life, and from which his only absence of any duration formed the one eventful episode in a career else singularly smooth and even. During the Revolution he entered the service of his country as surgeon of a privateer. The vessel, after having captured and sent home a valuable prize, was surrounded in the British Channel by English men-of-war, and was run ashore in the hope that the crew might thus secure their own safety. Fisher was arrested, however, yet effected his escape, and after various perilous and not unromantic adventures reached the French coast, where he shipped on board of another privateer, and after a successful cruise took passage for Boston.

In 1788 the first cotton factory in the country was built in Beverly, and was regarded as so unique and marvellous an establishment that General Washington, on his presidential tour in the following year, was taken to visit it. Dr. Fisher was induced to accept the office of superintendent of this factory, invested a large portion of his property in the venture and lost it, as the factory was not a success. In the first volume of the *Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, of which Fisher became a member in 1785, is a remarkably accurate account of an autopsy he had made in Hamilton, a minute precision of detail showing careful observation and painstaking accuracy in judgment and statement. He had joined the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1782, the year following its incorporation. The year after its reorganization, that is in 1804, he was elected vice-president, serving under the presidency of John Warren until he died in office in 1815 when Fisher succeeded him in the presidency. He was president until 1823, when he resigned, he then being seventy years old. During his presidency the laws of 1818 and 1819 were passed by the legislature requiring examination by the censors of the Society for a license to practice medicine in the state and defin-

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<sup>1</sup> From "Harvard Graduates whom I have Known" by Andrew Preston Peabody, D. D., Boston, 1890, with additions.





*J. Jackson*

A. B. 1796; A. M.; M. B. 1802; M. D. 1809; LL. D. 1851.

Professor Clinical Medicine 1810-1812.

Hersey Professor Theory and Practice 1812-1836.

Emeritus 1857-1867.





ing how the censors should be chosen by the Society. Another mark of progress during his administration was the loaning of sixty books from the society's library to any district medical society that asked for them. The more distant districts had complained previously that they were cut off from the privilege of using the library, by their locations far from Boston.

In practice Dr. Fisher was conservative. He did not believe in venesection, used opium in large doses, was on the lookout for specifics. In his presidential address before the state society in 1806, the third oration in point of time, with the title: "On Several Narcotic Vegetable Substances," he describes his cure of President Willard of Harvard College, his minister and patient, of stubborn jaundice by the administration of extract of hemlock. Dr. Willard had been under treatment for six months, with no relief. Dr. Fisher "gave him some pills of the extract of hemlock, desiring him to take one the first night, and to increase the dose by an additional pill every night, till he felt the usual symptoms of a full dose." On the eighth morning the patient was on the road to recovery and there was no relapse.

An ardent Federalist Dr. Fisher took an active part in politics and was at one time a member of the state senate; he was president of the Beverly bank; president and founder of the Beverly Charitable Society. At his death he bequeathed his house to the First Church in Beverly and for many years it was occupied as the parsonage. His chief claim to commemoration was his endowment of the Fisher Professorship of Natural History in Harvard College. In 1833, the year of his death, there had been no professor of natural history for eleven years, on account of the lack of funds. Dr. Fisher bequeathed the sum of twenty thousand dollars, equivalent at the present time to many times that amount, for the foundation of the Fisher professorship, securing to the college for nearly half a century the services of the distinguished botanist, Asa Gray. His death occurred in Beverly on March 15, 1833.

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JAMES JACKSON<sup>1</sup> (1777-1867), was born in Newburyport, Oct. 3, 1777 and died in Boston, August 17, 1867. His ninety years of busy life stretched from the middle of the war of the Revolution to the close of the Civil War, a notable figure in the New England of his day, and one who played a significant part in the medical history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during its formative period.

The founder of the Jackson family in America was Edward Jackson, who, with his older brother John, came from London to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1643, as a pioneer settler in New Cambridge, known then as Newtowne. He represented his town in the General Court for many years and was active in behalf of the commonwealth and of his community.

James Jackson's grandfather married Dorothy Quincy, and lived in Quincy until his death in 1757. Their son Jonathan graduated from Harvard College in 1761 and removed to Newburyport to be near his intimate friend John Lowell. In 1772 Jonathan Jackson married Hannah Tracy, daughter of Patrick

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviated from the biography by James Jackson Putnam in "American Medical Biographies."



Tracy, a prominent public-spirited merchant of Newburyport; they had nine children, of whom James Jackson was the fifth.

Jonathan Jackson was unable to do more than was absolutely essential toward the education of his sons. James went to Harvard College where he met John Collins Warren, and became the warm friend of John Pickering of Salem. Jackson was graduated from College in 1796 at the age of nineteen, and taught for two quarters in Leicester Academy, where he would have stayed longer but for a call from his father, the Supervisor of Internal Revenue for the District of Massachusetts, to take a place as clerk in his office. His fixed purpose, however, was to study medicine, and even to borrow money to carry out his plan.

The young Medical Institution of Harvard University (founded 1783) was still grappling with its early problems when Jackson attended its courses in 1796. There were no clinical advantages and the teaching was supplemented by an association with some practitioner outside, called a preceptor.

Whatever wisdom Jackson got from this institution, his enrollment was important from the fact that it brought him into closer connection with the Warren family, with Dr. John Collins Warren, who graduated from Harvard in the class next below his, as well as with Warren's father, John Warren.

Jackson's first step in his medical education was his enrollment in December, 1797, as a pupil of Dr. E. A. Holyoke of Salem, son of President Holyoke of Harvard College. This remarkable teacher (centenarian) was then the foremost physician in New England; Dr. Jackson ever called him his "glorious old master," who instilled into him accuracy of observation and moderation in treatment. To him he dedicated his graduation thesis on the "Brunonian System" (1809).

In 1799 Jackson received a free passage to London in a ship with his brother Henry as captain. While in London he was a "dresser" at St. Thomas's, and studied anatomy with Cline at that hospital, and with Astley Cooper at Guy's, and vaccination at the St. Pancras Hospital under Woodville, besides attending the regular medical lectures. St. Saviour's Church yard, where he had his rooms, was only a block removed from the Hospital, then near the south end of the old London Bridge.

In August, 1800, he sailed for Boston in the *Superb*, "a large ship for that period," and reached home in forty-nine days. Two days later he began practice, depending for his first success on vaccination, then just introduced.

On October 3, 1801, his twenty-fourth birthday, he married Elizabeth Cabot, at a time when he was \$3,000 in debt, the sum borrowed for his education. This step proved a wise one and they lived together "for seventeen happy year"; they had nine children, three dying in infancy or early childhood. The oldest of Dr. Jackson's sons surviving childhood, James Jr., a remarkable young fellow, graduated at Harvard College, studied medicine, and went abroad where he became a favorite pupil of Louis in Paris, under whom he did original work in the early diagnosis of tuberculosis of the lungs. He also made observations on the clinical history and pathology of cholera during the serious Paris epidemic. A few months after returning to America, in 1834, this promising young man died of typhoid fever. The shock of this loss led Dr. Jackson

soon to resign his positions in the hospital and in the medical school. He wrote a memoir of his son which was published in 1836.

After his wife's death he married her sister, Sarah Cabot, who lived until shortly before his own demise.

In 1802 Dr. Jackson was physician to the Boston Dispensary, serving in the "middle" district, extending from "the north side of Summer and Winter streets to the Mill pond and Creek."

Next came the joint labor with Warren of reorganizing the Massachusetts Medical Society, as the representative body of the entire medical community of the Commonwealth, following the scheme of his friend, Dr. John D. Treadwell of Salem, "one of the best physicians of that day."

Meantime, plans for removing the Medical School to Boston, where clinical facilities were more adequate, and for the founding of the Massachusetts General Hospital, constantly occupied the thoughts of Warren and Jackson. The removed Medical School was opened in Boston in 1810, and it became possible to utilize the Leverett Street Almshouse with about fifty sick or infirm persons for clinical instruction.

In 1812 Dr. Jackson was appointed Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, in place of Dr. Waterhouse, and with this move the Medical School was fairly launched in its new form. Dr. Jackson's lectures were didactic, according to the fashion of the day, and his notes, which were printed and are still extant, reveal much thoughtful study.

In 1811 the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery* was established, and up to 1825 Dr. Jackson was its largest contributor.

In 1810 the plans for the establishment of the Massachusetts General Hospital took definite shape, through the appointment of an able Board of Trustees, and in the same year Jackson and Warren drew up an appeal for subscriptions which went far toward assuring success. The carrying out of these plans was interrupted by the War of 1812, and the Hospital was not opened for patients until 1821; at first the applicants came in one by one as the notion of a hospital was a strange one. Dr. Jackson's distinguishing characteristic during his hospital service was a reverential fidelity in observation.

He was a man of medium height, dignified and courtly in bearing. His features were regular, the nose aquiline, the upper lip markedly long and the mouth wide. There is a good bust in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

He continued well into the new century to cling to the older customs which were rapidly disappearing. He wore knee-breeches, and after giving these up he still dressed in a long-tailed coat like the evening coat of today. The stock and the white neck-cloth, a regular part of the dress of a man of his position, always seemed peculiarly appropriate. His hat hung always on the same peg in the hatrack and no one would have been so presumptuous as to remove it. He was scrupulously punctual in his professional engagements, and to avoid the chance of being late he carried two watches!

At a meeting of the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society, October 7, 1903, the treasurer announced that he had received a portrait of Dr. James Jackson, the gift of Gardiner Greene Hammond. The portrait was accepted by vote and deposited with the Boston Medical Library, where it now hangs in the Supper Room. The illustration in this book is a reproduction.



JOHN COLLINS WARREN<sup>1</sup> (1778-1856). Among the men of past generations few led more steadily laborious and useful lives than John Collins Warren. He was born in Boston in 1778, on the first of August, the eldest son of John Warren, who served in the Revolution and founded the Harvard Medical School.

Warren was intended by his father for a mercantile life, but passed a couple of years at French and the pretended study of medicine, as he himself says. Then he went to Europe and settled down to serious work in 1799. London claimed him first, where he became a pupil of William Cooper, and later of William Cooper's nephew, Astley Cooper. Warren secured a dresser's position at Guy's Hospital—it was merely a matter of money down—and served at such work and dissecting for something more than a year, then went to Edinburgh for a year, where he received his medical degree, and for a final year to Paris. In the two latter places he studied hard, going in for chemistry, general medicine and midwifery, as well as anatomy and surgery. He lived in Paris with Dubois, Napoleon's distinguished surgeon, and studied anatomy with Ribes, Sabatier, Chaussier, Cuvier and Dupuytren; medicine with Corvisart, and botany with Desfontaines.

In 1802 Warren came home, and found his father in very poor health. In order to relieve him he immediately assumed a great part of his practice.

The years between 1802 and 1810 were important years to Warren. To begin with, he married, in 1803, a daughter of Jonathan Mason, and began the rearing of his many children. With Jackson, Dixwell, Coffin, Bullard and Howard, he formed a Society for Medical Improvement. In 1806 he was made adjunct to his father in the chair of anatomy and surgery at Harvard, and succeeded to the full professorship, upon his father's death, in 1815.

Warren's name will always be associated with two important facts: the founding of the Massachusetts General Hospital and the introduction of ether anesthesia. These two events were separated by an interval of twenty-five years, but around them both are grouped nearly all that is conspicuous in Boston medicine during the first fifty years of the last century. What he did for the Massachusetts Medical Society has been set down in the pages of this chapter.

In 1809, while still comparatively fresh from European teachers, he published a valuable paper on organic diseases of the heart, a subject which until then was little understood in this country; and in 1811, together with Jackson, Gorham, Jacob Bigelow and Channing, he assisted in founding the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*. This publication was ably edited and in 1828 was united with another, under the title, *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

As a writer, Warren was lucid and strong. He had a great many things to say and he said them well.

He was a very able surgeon of the painstaking type. In those days all operations, even the most inconsiderable from our point of view, were serious matters.

With all care and method, Warren was not a timid operator. His ampu-

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<sup>1</sup> From the biography by Dr. J. G. Mumford in "American Medical Biographies."





tations were bold and brilliant; he removed cataracts with great success; taught and practised the operation for strangulated hernia—the first surgeon in this country to do so, and against strong professional opinion here; introduced the operation for aneurysm according to Hunter's method. His excisions of bones for tumor, especially of the jaw, became famous and are classics. They are recorded in volumes of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*. In 1837, when fifty-nine years old, he published his magnum opus, "Surgical Observations on Tumors," a thick octavo with plates—a great collection of cases and remarks, interesting and instructive today. But all this gives only a very faint idea of his ceaseless literary activity. He was always writing; reports, memoirs, essays, lectures poured from his pen. It was a fluent pen, and had behind it a brain stored with keen thoughts and abundant information.

Always greatly interested in comparative anatomy and paleontology, he was able to secure, among other trophies, the most perfect skeleton of the mastodon which exists—the monster preserved in the old building on Chestnut Street which had been known for sixty years as the Warren Museum. All through his life he devoted himself, like Hunter and Cooper before him, to the collection of anatomical specimens. This collection, together with the treasures of the Medical Improvement Society, passed years ago to the Harvard Medical School and formed the nucleus of the fine "Warren Museum" of that institution.

He was prominent also in the establishment of the American Medical Association, being its third president, and there was that other great event with which his name is most conspicuously connected, the first public use in surgery of ether anesthesia. This was in October, 1846, when he was sixty-eight years old. It is needless here to enter upon that most interesting and confused chapter of American surgery. Suffice it to admit, as Jacob Bigelow admitted years afterwards, that to Warren belongs the credit, in his old age, of allowing his name and position to stand sponsor for this courageous and revolutionary experiment.

Dr. Warren lived until 1856. Fifteen years before his death his wife died, leaving him with six grown children, and two years later he married a daughter of Gov. Thomas Lindall Winthrop, who also died before him.

He kept busy almost to the end of his life, especially with his writing. His last surgical paper was published in May, 1855, just a year before his death, which closed a brief and painful illness.

Among his writings are: "Cases of Organic Diseases of the Heart," Boston, 1809; "A Comparative View of the Sensorial and Nervous Systems in Men and Animals," Boston, 1822; "Surgical Observations on Tumors," Boston, 1837; "Inhalation of Ethereal Vapor for the Prevention of Pain in Surgical Operations," Boston, 1846; "The Mastodon Giganteus of North America."

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GEORGE CHEYNE SHATTUCK, (1784-1854) the elder, was born in Templeton, July 17, 1784, the youngest son of Dr. Benjamin and Lucy Barron Shattuck, and was named for George Cheyne, a London and Bath physician, who practised between 1671 and 1743.

Shattuck was educated at Dartmouth College, where he received his A. B.

in 1803; M. B. in 1806; the honorary M. D. in 1812, and LL. D. in 1853, meanwhile receiving the M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1807, and the honorary A. M. from Harvard in the same year. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and began to practise in Boston in 1807, and continued there until his death, March 18, 1854.

While a student at Dartmouth Shattuck formed a friendship with Nathan Smith that ceased only at Dr. Smith's death in 1829, and also with Lyman Spalding, then lecturing on chemistry at Dartmouth. Dr. Spalding got his young friend to lecture on the theory and practice of medicine at the Fairfield Medical School, in western New York State, for two winters and kept up a life-long friendship with him.

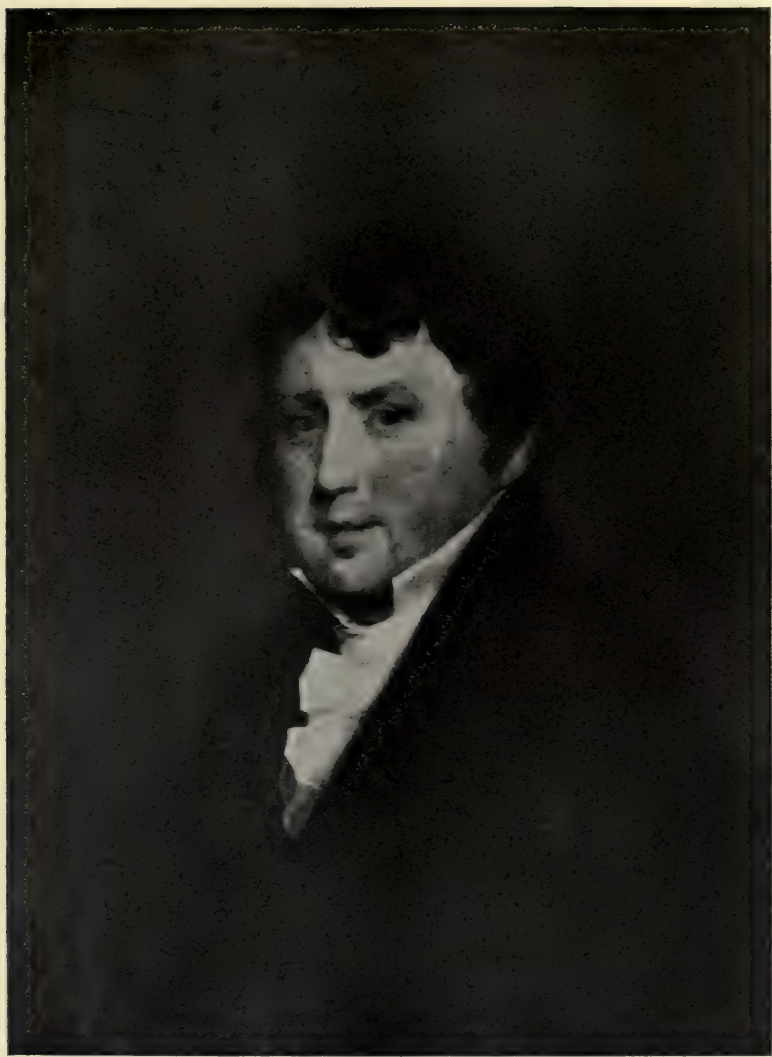
Dr. Shattuck married Eliza Cheever Davis, daughter of Caleb Davis, and lived and died in his house at the corner of Staniford and Cambridge Streets in the West End of Boston. He had a very large family practice and was noted for his benevolence. Dr. Edward Jarvis relates of him that upon many occasions he was called upon to treat the needy students of Andover and Cambridge. After hearing complaints and prescribing for them, he would hand the sufferer a prescription and say courteously, "Now, sir, will you be good enough to carry this prescription to the apothecary, 134 Washington Street, and while he is putting up the medicine, will you do me the favor to carry this note to Mr. K., No. 5 Congress Street?" The grateful student wishing to make some return for a free consultation and for the kindly interest in his case, gladly took the note to Mr. K., only to learn that it was an order to K., the tailor, for a suit of clothes for the bearer of the note.

Shattuck was president of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1836 to 1840 and delivered the annual discourse in 1828. Many years before the establishment of the Board of Health he was one of the consulting physicians of the City of Boston. He avoided public office as a rule. Rev. Cyrus A. Bartol, pastor of the West Church, but a few steps from Dr. Shattuck's home, said of his last hours, "'Pray with me,' was commonly his first salutation as I entered his sick chamber. 'I want your prayers, they are a great comfort and consolation. Pray not for my recovery, I am going to God. I wish in your prayer to go as a sinner.'"

At various times he gave Harvard College over \$26,000. His donation of \$7,000 ensured the foundation of Dartmouth College Observatory, and he gave many books and portraits to the college library.

The year before he died he established the Shattuck professorship of pathological anatomy in the Harvard Medical School by a gift of \$14,000. By his will, probated in 1854, he left the sum of \$10,000 to the Massachusetts Medical Society, to accumulate for three years and then to be invested. The income was to be used for the collection and publication annually by some suitable person, of historical or other essays on the climate or the diseases of Massachusetts. At the present time the fund provides for the annual Shattuck Lecture.

Of his six children all but the oldest son, George Cheyne, died when young. Shattuck assisted Dr. James Thacher with his *American Medical Biography*, as mentioned by Thacher in the preface and also in his *Dispensatory*. Shattuck had an extraordinary talent for writing medical papers and carried off the



GEORGE CHEYNE SHATTUCK, SENIOR

From a portrait in the possession of his grandson, Dr. Frederick Cheever Shattuck.





Boylston Prize several years in succession. Later in life he did much for the foundation and enlargement of the Massachusetts Dispensary, of which he was one of the committee of publication.

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ENOCH HALE (1790-1848) was born in West Hampton, Massachusetts, January 19, 1790. His father, of the same name, was the first minister of West Hampton. In early life the son's health was poor, he having a cough with hemoptysis. He went to New Haven, Connecticut, where he attended Professor Silliman's lectures and devoted himself to the study of chemistry, later studying medicine with Dr. Hooker of his native town and then removing to Boston to continue these studies with Jacob Bigelow and John Warren. He graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1813, with an inaugural dissertation on "Experiments on the Production of Animal Heat by Respiration." It was published and called forth a rejoinder from Sir Benjamin Brodie, in the columns of the *London Medical and Physical Journal*.

Hale settled in Gardiner, Maine, where he had a friend, Dr. Benjamin Vaughan, a learned English gentleman and recent settler in Gardiner, having a large acquaintance among scientific men abroad, and the possessor of a large library. Hale studied meteorological problems and wrote the "History and Description of an Epidemic Fever, commonly called Spotted Fever, which prevailed at Gardiner, Maine, in the spring of 1814."

Removing to Boston he was appointed district physician to the Boston Dispensary in 1819. In this year he published a dissertation which received the Boylston prize in Harvard University, and another in 1821, also gaining a Boylston prize. He was one of the early visiting physicians to the Massachusetts General Hospital and in 1839 published a work entitled, "Observations on the Typhoid Fever of New England," the oration at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society in that year. This with the papers of George C. Shattuck (1836), Gerhard of Philadelphia (1836) and Elisha Bartlett (1842) served to draw a clear distinction between typhus and typhoid fever. Hale was an excellent recording secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1832 to 1835 and corresponding secretary for three years more, and he was instrumental in revising the by-laws. In 1839-1840, being chairman of a "convention" of delegates from all the districts, the committee decided on the selection of counselors by districts. His was the master mind that directed the proceedings.

In the latter years of his life he suffered with Bright's disease and worked handicapped with great pain. He was honest, frank and somewhat intolerant of unfairness in others.

He died November 12, 1848.

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GEORGE HAYWARD (1791-1863), the first to do a major surgical operation with ether anesthesia, was born in Boston, March 9, 1791, and died of apoplexy in the same city, October 7, 1863. He was the son of Dr. Lemuel Hayward (1749-1821) of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, surgeon of the Revolution.

He received the degree of A. B. from Harvard College in 1809, and also from Yale in the same year, and the degree of M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1812. Then he studied abroad under Sir Astley Cooper, Abernethy and other eminent teachers of the time. Of a sanguine temperament he put great energy and zeal into his medical work from the first. On his return from abroad he was one of the members of a private medical club including in its membership Channing, Bigelow, Gorham, J. C. Warren and Ware, who met weekly for the reading of medical papers to be published later in the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*. In 1830 Hayward joined with J. C. Warren and Enoch Hale in founding a private medical school, which lived eight years.

He translated Bichat and Béclard's "General Anatomy," four volumes, octavo, thus first bringing to the attention of the profession of this country the new science of histology, and he assisted in framing the report upon smallpox of the consulting physicians of the city of Boston, in 1837, outlining the procedure adopted today in handling contagious diseases.

He devoted himself largely to surgical work and was known as a careful and judicious operator, so that in 1835, when Harvard established a professorship of the principles of surgery and clinical surgery, he was chosen to fill the chair. He held teaching clinics at the Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was visiting surgeon, and it was he who did the second surgical operation ever done upon a patient under the influence of ether, the removal of a fatty tumor of the shoulder, on October 17, 1846, occupying seven minutes. This was the day following the first operation under ether, by J. C. Warren. On November 7, 1846, he did the first major operation under ether anesthesia in the same institution, amputation of the thigh, occupying a minute and three quarters exclusive of the tying of the vessels. The operation was done before a large audience of students and physicians, and the patient, a delicate girl of twenty, with a scrofulous knee-joint, was entirely ignorant that her leg had been removed.

While recording secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1826 to 1832 he wrote full and clearly written records, and when president from 1852 to 1855 he was devoted to the interests of the society. At this time he was made one of the seven fellows of Harvard College, an office he held until his death, a rather unusual honor to be bestowed on a member of the medical profession. Dr. Hayward was instrumental in having the State laws on vaccination revised in 1838. He seems to have been almost morbid in his fear of publicity, and destroyed all papers that might have been used by future biographers. He published "Some Account of the First Use of Sulphuric Ether by Inhalation in Surgical Practice" in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, April 21, 1847.

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ABEL LAWRENCE PEIRSON (1794-1853), for many years the leading surgeon of Essex County and the first to publish a "Report of Private Surgical Operations Performed with Ether Anesthesia," was a descendant of John Pearson, or Peirson, who settled in Rowley, Massachusetts, in 1643, and the son of Samuel Peirson, of Biddeford, Maine, being born in that town, November 25, 1794.



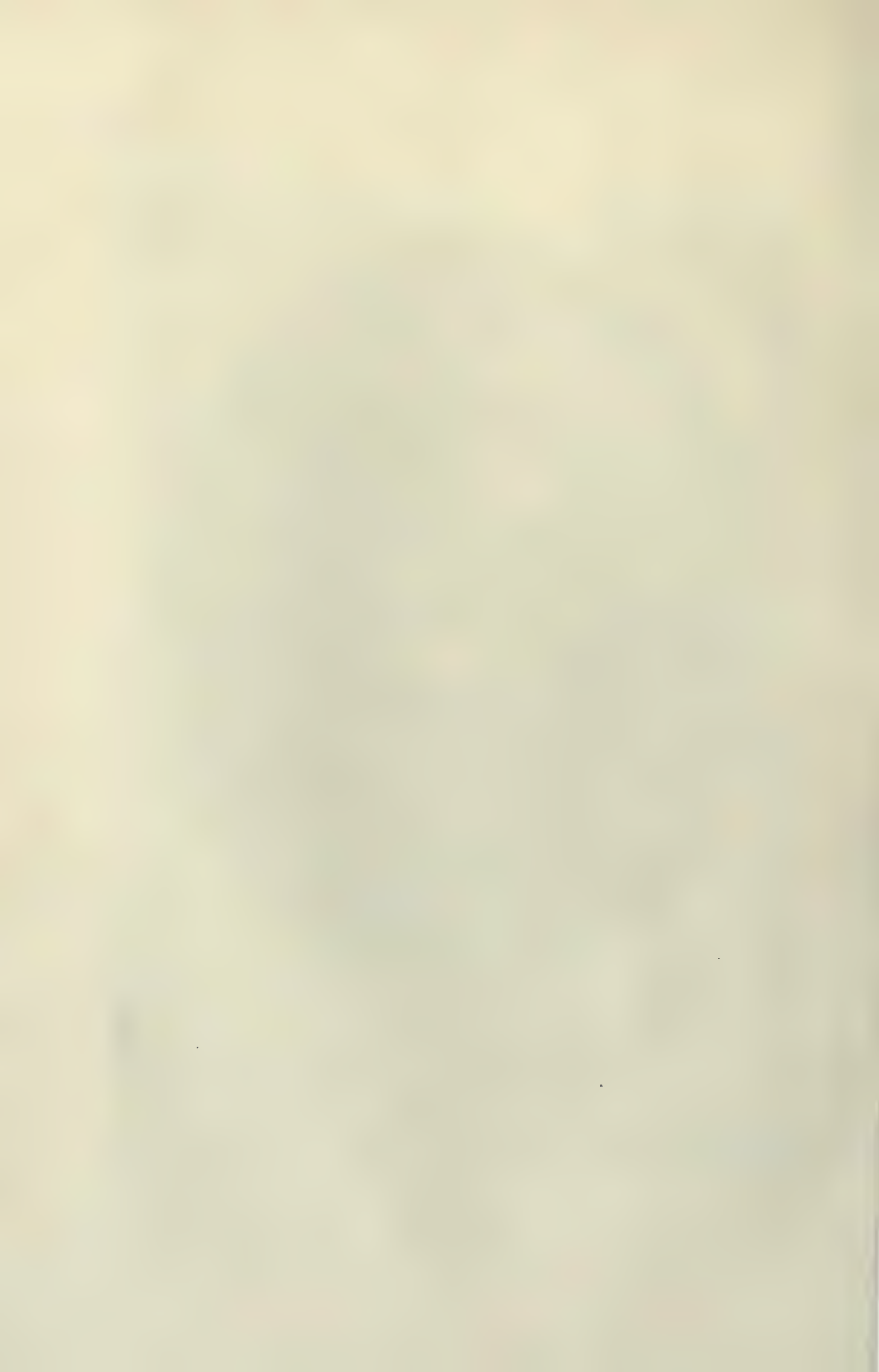
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Abel Lawrence Peirson M.D.

1794 — 1853.





Entering Harvard College as a sophomore in 1809, he graduated in 1812, and at once began to study medicine with Dr. James Jackson, four years later taking his M. D. from Harvard. The town of Vassalboro, Maine, was the place of his early practice, but he remained there less than a year and a half, removing to Salem, Massachusetts, early in 1818, for a larger field and to be in closer touch with the leading members of his profession with whom he had many ties of friendship.

He married his cousin, Harriet Lawrence, in 1819, and in 1832 went abroad and studied medicine in Paris and elsewhere, being among the first of the Americans to become acquainted with Laennec's method of exploring the chest for the physical signs of disease. With J. B. Flint, Elisha Bartlett and A. A. Gould he edited the *Medical Magazine*, Boston, an independent periodical that had an existence from July, 1832, to July, 1835.

In his practice he gave chief attention to surgery and acquired a high reputation. From a conversation he had with Dr. Charles T. Jackson in October, 1846, he learned of the properties of sulphuric ether. He was present at the Massachusetts General Hospital on the occasion of the first use of that anesthetic, October 16, having been a consulting surgeon to that hospital since 1839, and on November 14, 1846, he made trial of etherization in the removal of a fatty tumor, with complete success. Again, on November 19, he did an amputation of the arm without the patient experiencing pain, and in the next few days did an amputation of the leg and removed a large fatty tumor of the shoulder under ether anesthesia, the ether being administered in each case by a dentist named Fisk. These cases were sent to the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for report. (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, December 2, 1846, vol. xxv, p. 362.) This is the first published report of surgical operations performed with the aid of ether anesthesia—the "New Gas"—outside the Massachusetts General Hospital.

He was an active fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society and was at one time president of the Essex South District branch of the society. He worked valiantly to protect the good name of the society in the J. S. Bartlett case, in 1839, and was chairman of important committees of the society, notably in securing the anatomy act and in preventing a threatened disruption in 1848. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

While returning from a meeting of the American Medical Association he was killed in a railway wreck at Norwalk, Connecticut, May 6, 1853. His wife and five children survived him, the oldest son, Edward Brooks, becoming a physician in Salem.

Among his writings are to be mentioned: "Some Account of the Measles Epidemic in Salem in 1821"; "The Boylston Prize Essay on Chin-cough in 1824"; "Operation for Hare-Lip," 1836, and "A Dissertation on Fractures, 1840 ("Communications Massachusetts Medical Society," vol. vi, p. 261).

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JOHN WARE (1795–1864), teacher of medicine, writer, editor, was born in Hingham, Massachusetts, December 19, 1795, the son of the Rev. Henry Ware, who was minister in that town for eighteen years, and later Hollis professor of theology in Harvard College from 1805 to 1840, serving also as acting president



of the college in 1810 and in 1828-1829. The immigrant ancestor of the family was Robert Ware, who "came from his English home to the colony of Massachusetts Bay sometime before the autumn of 1642," and settled in Dedham, where he married and brought up his family, and was "the progenitor of a long line of moral teachers." John Ware's mother was the daughter of the Rev. Jonas Clark, "the patriot parson of Lexington," and the granddaughter of the Rev. John Hancock of that town.

Graduating from Harvard College in 1813, John Ware entered the Harvard Medical School and received his M. D. in 1816. He began his medical career in Duxbury, Massachusetts, but in 1817 returned to Boston, where he acquired an extensive practice. In his diary he says: "I had always a great many patients, but for many years a very small income, and was obliged to have recourse to other means besides my profession for the support of my family. Some of my receipts were from dentistry, which I practised about ten years." From his diary it is learned that he also eked out his income by keeping school and by taking private "scholars." In 1820 he records the receipt of the "Boylston Premium of fifty dollars." In 1823-1825 he was physician at the Boston Almshouse, which paid a small stipend. He also gave two courses of lectures and wrote for the *North American Review*. With Dr. Walter Channing he was editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, from 1824 to 1827, and on the establishment of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* in 1828, he served for a year as its first editor. From 1823 to 1825 he was editor of the *Journal of Philosophy and the Arts*. This literary work was a valuable training. It gave him a good literary style and put him in touch with medical progress with which he was so closely identified in the succeeding years. After twenty years of unremitting effort he wrote, "My success in life, professionally, is, as often I reflect upon it, a matter of surprise to me. I came to Boston with no advantages of friends, or relations, or purse."

From 1848 to 1852 he served as president of the Massachusetts Medical Society and in the latter year he was appointed adjunct professor to Dr. James Jackson, Hersey professor of the theory and practice of physic in the Harvard Medical School. Four years later he succeeded Dr. Jackson in the professorship, which he held until 1858. In 1839, with Dr. Jacob Bigelow and Dr. Enoch Hale, he refounded the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, a medical organization with a most honorable history. In 1842 Dr. Ware published a "Contribution to the History and Diagnosis of Croup." He pointed out that "the only form of croup attended with any considerable danger to life is that distinguished by the presence of a false membrane in the air passages." This may be regarded as one of the earliest recognitions of the characteristics of diphtheria. He also published essays on delirium tremens and on hemoptysis. He was much interested in natural science, and he enlarged with original matter and re-published Smellie's "Natural History" under the title of "Philosophy of Natural History," by Ware and Smellie. He also wrote a memoir of his brother, the Rev. Henry Ware, Jr. John Ware was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. For a short time he was visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital, and on the organization of the Boston City Hospital in 1864, was appointed to the consulting staff. For the last twenty years of his life his health was somewhat impaired, and he spent his

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JOHN WARE







summers and leisure moments on his country place in Weston, although continuing in practice as a consultant. He died of apoplexy in Boston, April 29, 1864.

Dr. Jacob Bigelow said of him: "A favorite term used by Dr. Ware in enumerating the various causes of mortality was 'hyper-practice.' He had an instinctive aversion to over-drugging. His prescriptions were simple, seldom containing more than one, two or three articles."

Dr. Ware married April 22, 1822, Helen Lincoln, daughter of Desire Thaxter and Dr. Levi Lincoln, of Hingham, and had eight children. One of his sons was Maj. Robert Ware, A. B. (Harvard), 1852, M. D. 1856, surgeon of the Forty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry, who lost his life in the War of the Rebellion. Mrs. Ware died in 1858, and in 1862 Dr. Ware married Mary Green Chandler, of Lancaster, Massachusetts, who survived him.

Dr. Ware's portrait and bust may be seen in the Boston Medical Library in John Ware Hall, which was dedicated to his memory by his son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Charles M. Green. Dr. Ware's memory is perpetuated in the Harvard Medical School by the endowment, in 1891, by William Story Bullard, of the John Ware Memorial Fellowship.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society held May 25, 1864, shortly after Dr. Ware's death, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes read a poem in memory of John and Robert Ware, father and son. One stanza referring to John Ware, but applicable alike to his son, runs:

"A whiter soul, a fairer mind,  
A life with purer course and aim,  
A gentler eye, a voice more kind,  
We may not look on earth to find.  
The love that lingers o'er his name  
Is more than fame."

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AUGUSTUS ADDISON GOULD (1805-1866). This physician, author and conchologist, was born at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, April 23, 1805. His father's family name was Duren, which was changed to that of Gould by act of the legislature. Receiving an A. B. at Harvard in 1825 he entered the Harvard Medical School and taking his M. D. in 1830, began practice in Boston, where he lived the rest of his life. He studied natural history in college and for two years after graduation gave instruction in botany and zoölogy at Harvard College.

With A. L. Peirson, J. B. Flint and Elisha Bartlett he edited the *Medical Magazine* in Boston from 1832 to 1835, when this publication ended its brief life. Dr. Gould should be given credit for befriending W. T. G. Morton when he was introducing surgical anesthesia in the fall of 1846. Morton lived across the street from Gould, and the latter was instrumental in getting opportunities for Morton to anesthetize when popular and professional prejudice against etherization was strong.

He became treasurer of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1845 and held the position, with the exception of one year, until 1863, and he was presi-

dent of that society from 1864 to 1866, the year of his death. In 1855 he delivered the annual discourse with the title, "Search out the Secrets of Nature." The following year he became a visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital, serving until his death, at the age of sixty-one, September 15, 1866.

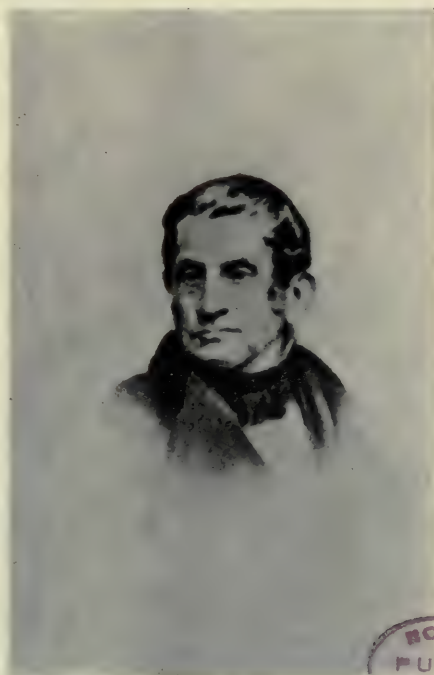
His writings gave him membership in several learned societies, among them being American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Philosophical Society, the natural history societies of Rhode Island and Connecticut and Quebec, the Imperial Mineralogical Society, St. Petersburg; Natural History Society, Athens, and Royal Society of Natural History, Copenhagen. His chief works were: Translation of Lamarck's "Genera of Shells," 1833; "System of Natural History," 1833; translation of Gall's works; the "Invertebrate Animals of Massachusetts," 1841; "Principles of Zoölogy" with Professor Louis Agassiz, 1848; "Mollusca and Shells of the U. S. Exploring Expedition under Captain Wilkes, 1852, quarto with plates"; "Land Mollusks of the United States," 3 vols., 4to, 1851-1855; "A History of New Ipswich, N. H.," with F. Kidder, 1852.

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JACOB BIGELOW (1787-1879) was a great educational reformer, and one of America's most learned botanists. He was of New England ancestry, his people coming over about 1640 and settling in Watertown, Massachusetts. Jacob was the son of Jacob Bigelow, Congregational minister, and graduate of Harvard, who married a daughter of one Gershom Flagg. Jacob the younger was born on the twenty-seventh of February, 1787, in that part of Watertown which is now Waltham, and his childhood was passed in the country at farm-work, with scanty schooling. His father managed to send him to Harvard where he graduated in 1806, and in 1808 attended the medical lectures there while acting as pupil under Dr. John Gorham and teaching in the Boston Latin School. Then he went to Philadelphia for the lectures of Rush, Wistar, Barton and Coxe and the doctor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1810. To bring himself early before the professional public he took to writing and secured the Boylston prize four successive years. So promising seemed his career that the elder James Jackson chose him as associate in practice. He was a born artist, craftsman, and inventor. When occasion came for illustrating his "Medical Botany" (1817-1820) with engravings, before photography or lithographing were invented, he devised a means of illustration which proved both practical and beautiful and furnished sixty plates and six thousand colored engravings for this monumental and now rare work. He speaks laughingly of his first lesson in botany given when as a little boy he asked a learned gentleman the name of the plant *Star of Bethlehem*. "That? Why that's grass, you little fool." When he wished for drawings and models for his lectures as Rumford professor he knew how to make them. In 1812 his interest in the study of botany led him to give a course of public lectures in Boston.

Botany was his great hobby, and "Florula Bostoniensis" (1814) was a charming book well known to our grandfathers. In 1815 he was appointed lecturer on materia medica and botany and two years later when he was thirty they changed his title to professor. Then, too, as first Rumford professor, it is pleasant to believe that Rumford left behind him in his native state

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JACOB BIGELOW

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a young disciple who fulfilled all his desires. The work which brought Bigelow into closest contact with European savants and gave him honor in his own country was the elaborate series published under the title "American Medical Botany," which, for finish and beauty and avoidance of technical terms, makes it desirable today. In 1820, when thirty-three, he was associated with Spalding, Hewson, Ives and Butts in editing the "United States Pharmacopœia." He followed up this labor by adding "Bigelow's Sequel," a perspicuous commentary on current remedies.

Three years previously he had married Mary, daughter of Col. William Scollay of Boston, and they had five children, one son, Henry J., becoming the noted surgeon in Boston.

When the great cholera epidemic of 1832 in New York carried off some three thousand victims, Boston's death roll numbered only one hundred owing to the authorities being wise enough to adopt the stringent sanitary precautions urged by Bigelow, who, with Ware and Flint, offered his services as investigator of the conditions in New York.

Bigelow at middle age was visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital, professor of materia medica at Harvard, had an enormous consulting practice, and wrote frequently for the press and keenly worked for reform in the practice of medicine. He had clear vision and for many years, in season and out of season, demonstrated the self-limited character of disease. In 1835, when he read an address with this title before the Massachusetts Medical Society, the effect it produced was profound. Dr. O. W. Holmes says, "this remarkable essay had more influence on medical practice in America than any other similar brief treatise." This paper is bound up in a little volume entitled "Nature in Disease and Other Writings," 1854. From 1842 to 1847 Bigelow was president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, having served previously as treasurer of that society from 1823 to 1828. He was constantly present at meetings of the Council and left his impress on much of the important business of his time.

His educational pamphlets caused widespread discussion at home and abroad. Lecky wrote a strong letter of dissent, but Lyell, Huxley and Spencer were vigorous in commendation. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology with its splendid curriculum and strong staff is a monument, in part at least, to his untiring energy.

He did many other things in his declining years and became a most distinguished, most approachable old-man oracle. He was blind at the last for nearly five years; bed-ridden, but with mind undimmed at ninety-two. "His religion, not for speech, discussion or profession, was that of a serious man living very near the realities of life!" Unforgotten to the end, though long inactive, he died January 10, 1879, and was buried in the beautiful Mount Auburn Cemetery, which he himself had originated.

## ACT OF 1803

*From the official copy of 1803, compared with the first  
printing of 1804*

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three.—  
An Act in addition to an Act, entitled, “An Act to incorporate  
certain Physicians, by the name of the Massachusetts Medical  
Society.”—

Whereas the Act, entitled, “An Act to incorporate certain  
Physicians, by the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society”  
has been found in its operation, insufficient to effect the important  
and desirable purposes, for which it was designed.

- Sec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the  
Fellows for the time being of the said *Massachusetts Medical Society*,  
in any meeting or meetings, to be called and holden for the pur-  
pose, before the next annual meeting, shall have authority to elect  
into that Corporation, and to be Fellows thereof, such and so  
many suitable persons, being Physicians or Surgeons, resident  
within this Commonwealth, as they shall see fit, anything in this  
Act, to which this is in addition, to the contrary notwithstanding.  
Provided that all persons so elected, shall within one year after  
such election, subscribe the bye laws of the said Society, or other-  
wise declare in writing their assent thereto, or such election shall  
be void.
- Sec. 2<sup>d</sup>. And be it further enacted, that at the next annual meeting of the  
Fellows of the said Society, and afterwards at every annual meet-  
ing thereof, there shall be chosen by ballot, in which any absent  
member may vote by his proxy, duly authorized in writing so  
many Counsellors as the said society shall from time to time judge  
necessary and expedient, who shall hold their offices for the year  
next ensuing their election, and until another election of Coun-  
sellors in their place; and the Fellows at their annual meetings,  
whenever such a number shall be present, as the regulations of  
the society may require, may revise, alter, enlarge, and repeal the  
bye laws of the said Society, as the major part of the Fellows  
present may see fit, and not otherwise.
- Sec. 3<sup>d</sup>. And be it further enacted, that the Counsellors of the said Corpo-  
ration, and their successors after them, shall assemble and con-  
vene, three times in the year, at such times and places, as the bye  
laws of said Corporation shall hereafter direct. Provided that the  
first meeting be within thirty days after the annual meeting of  
the said Society; and the said Counsellors shall assemble and  
convene at any other times as the bye laws of the said Corpo-  
ration shall hereafter direct, and whenever notified to convene by





their presiding officer; and the meetings of the said Counsellors shall be held in the town of Boston, or as near thereto as may be, and at the said first meeting of the Counsellors, after the annual meeting of the said Society, the said Counsellors shall proceed to appoint from among themselves, a President and such other officers of the said Corporation, as are and shall be required in the rules and bye laws thereof, to be so appointed, likewise five examiners or censors for the examination of all persons, who having been Students in Medicine and Surgery, agreeably to the regulations of the said Society, shall offer themselves to be approved and licenced, as practising Physicians & Surgeons, and the said Counsellors at any of the three stated meetings of the same & only at those meetings, and after three months nomination of every candidate, and not otherwise, by a major vote of those present, may elect any suitable person, or persons, to be a Fellow, or Fellows of the said Society: Provided that all practising Physicians and Surgeons, resident within this Commonwealth, who shall be so elected, shall within one year after such election subscribe the bye laws of the said Society, or otherwise declare in writing their assent to the same, or such election shall be void; and all persons not practising Physicians or Surgeons or not resident within this Commonwealth, who shall be so elected, may be deemed honorary members of the said Society; and at any meeting of the said Counsellors, they may fill any vacant office, and perform any other duties, as the bye laws of the said Corporation shall direct.

Sec. 4<sup>th</sup>. And be it further enacted, that for the purpose of examining Candidates as aforesaid, three at least of the examiners or censors, who shall be appointed as aforesaid shall be convened in the town of Boston, on the Thursday next preceding the annual meetings of the said Society, and at such other times and places as the bye laws of said Society shall direct, and every Candidate who upon examination shall be approved by a majority of the said Examiners, shall be entitled to Letters testimonial of their approbation, and of their licence, to such Candidate, to become a practitioner in medicine or surgery, under the hands of the Examiners, consenting thereto; and to such letters testimonial, the seal of the said Corporation, shall be affixed by the President or Secretary, if any there shall be, with the signature of the same; and every person who shall receive the said letters Testimonial, and such also as hereafter may be admitted to the degree of Bachelor in Medicine at Harvard University, shall be entitled to the use of the Libraries of the Society, under such restrictions as the Counsellors may direct; and after three years approved practice in Medicine and Surgery, and being of good moral character, and not otherwise, shall upon application and subscribing the Bye Laws as aforesaid, be admitted a member of the said Corporation while a resident Practitioner of medicine or surgery within this Commonwealth.

- Sec. 5<sup>th</sup>. And be it further enacted, that the said Counsellors upon the application of any five members of the said Society, may establish within such Districts, and portions of this Commonwealth, as they shall think expedient, subordinate Societies and meetings, to consist of the Fellows of the said Corporation residing within such Districts respectively, wherein the communication of cases and experiments may be made, and the diffusion of knowledge in medicine and surgery may be encouraged and promoted, and the Counsellors aforesaid, upon application from such subordinate societies may appoint five examiners or Censors, within such Districts, who shall be authorized and empower'd to examine such candidates for the practice of Physic and Surgery, as shall present themselves for such examination. And every Candidate, who, upon examination shall be approved by a majority of the examiners or Censors aforesaid, shall be entitled to Letters Testimonial, in the same manner, as is provided in the fourth Section of this Act. And the members of such subordinate societies shall be holden, to report to the Counsellors of the general Society, all such cases as may be selected for their importance and utility, and the said subordinate societies shall be subject to the regulations of the general society, in all matters, wherein the general society, shall be concerned, and the said subordinate societies may appoint their own officers, and establish regulations for their particular government, not repugnant to the bye laws of the general society; and shall be capable to purchase and receive by donation, Books, Philosophical, and Chirurgical Instruments, or other personal property, and may hold and dispose of the same exclusively of any authority of the general Society.
- Sec. 6<sup>th</sup>. And be it further enacted, that all matters and clauses, contained in the Act aforesaid, to incorporate certain Physicians, by the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which are contrary to the purview of this Act, shall be, and they hereby are repealed.
- Sec. 7<sup>th</sup>. And be it further enacted, that the Fellows of the said Corporation shall not be liable to be enrolled or mustered in the Militia of this Commonwealth. —

In the House of Representatives March 7th. 1803. This Bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted.

(Signed)

John C. Jones, *Speakr.*

In Senate, March 7th. 1803, This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

(Signed)

David Cobb. *presidl.*

March 8. th. 1803.

By the Governor approved

(Signed)

Caleb Strong.

a true copy attest

(Signed)

John Avery *Secretary.*

## CHAPTER IV

## THE FIFTIES, SIXTIES AND SEVENTIES

FROM DISTRICT REPRESENTATION TO THE CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING

THE redistricting of the state, begun in 1849 and finished in 1851, resulted in sixteen district medical societies, the additional districts of Worcester North and Norfolk South being organized in the years 1858 and 1884, respectively. All of the sixteen districts functioned properly from the beginning — they reported to the council, bringing their troubles to that body — they were satisfied with their new power to elect councilors and censors. If their representatives in the council sat speechless in the meetings of that governing organization they had themselves to blame, not the Boston oligarchy, which had been supposed to direct the doings of the society in the past. The district censors decided as to the qualifications of candidates for fellowship and were responsible if they let in undesirable fellows; Boston prejudice could not be assigned as a reason for admission or exclusion.

An attempt was made in 1870 to have the city of Lynn set off from the Essex South District as a separate district; a similar petition in 1872 resulted in a denial by the committee which had been appointed to consider it, the council accepting the recommendation of the majority report while a minority report received thorough discussion. When the city of Boston accepted Roxbury as a part of the city in 1868 a movement was started by certain Roxbury fellows to have their section of the city included in the Suffolk District, following the transfer of the territory of Roxbury from Norfolk County to Suffolk County. A committee of three, one from Cambridge, one from Walpole and one from Boston, passed on the petition, after holding hearings, deciding against it, and Roxbury stayed in Norfolk, by vote of the council.

During the redistricting and the taking of a new start by the society because of these changes in the organic law, the society had the good fortune to be under the presidency of John Ware and the



secretaryship of Henry Ingersoll Bowditch. Ware was president from 1848 to 1852 and Bowditch secretary from 1849 to 1851. Both took an active part in the districting; the files disclose much correspondence on the subject and many meetings of committees. It was at this time that Bowditch went over the accumulated documents and papers of the society, classified them and made his three huge volumes of priceless incunabula — autograph letters, diplomas, charters, newspapers of the time, original manuscripts of medical papers. He did the actual work himself and wrote a long preface to the first volume, the so-called "Bowditch Book," in his own handwriting. It was he who appreciated the importance of preserving all papers, for, though the society had accumulated a vast amount of material, — a surprising collection when we consider the vicissitudes through which the society had passed and the lack of fireproof protection in the many headquarters occupied, — Bowditch had the patience to drag into the light a mass of forgotten material — to put it where it would be accessible to those who were to come after. Bowditch was active in having the society meet in Worcester, the first time in its history that it had met away from the capital of the commonwealth. He read to the council, at the October meeting in 1850, a cordial invitation from the Worcester fellows, through William Workman, to meet in 1851, in what Workman described as "our small city." After the council had voted to accept the invitation, Bowditch was on a committee of three to nominate an anniversary chairman and committee of arrangements for that meeting. The committee of three reported in February, 1851, that

"after vainly endeavoring to obtain a presiding officer from Worcester County, they had determined to nominate Jacob Bigelow and O. W. Holmes, of Boston, as anniversary chairman and substitute; also Drs. Workman and Green of Worcester and Dr. Edward Flint of Leicester as the committee of arrangements."

The meeting of May 28, 1851, in the City Hall, Worcester, was well attended. About three hundred and seventy-five took dinner at Flagg's Hall, the dinner dividing two sessions of the society, much of the time being occupied in hearing the arguments for and against expelling Dr. Ira Barrows from his membership. These were resumed at an adjourned meeting in Boston, October 2, 1851. The council had an attendance of forty-four members at its meeting in Worcester the day before the meeting of the society. This is

to be compared with the attendance at the next meeting of the council in Boston in October, namely, thirty-seven councilors.

The subsequent meetings of the society out of Boston, to wit, in Pittsfield, 1852; Fitchburg, 1854; Springfield, 1855; New Bedford, 1857, and Pittsfield, 1863, were not counted as so successful as the meetings in Boston. There seemed to be difficulty in obtaining the attendance of the different officers and committee chairmen. At the gathering in the Berkshire Medical College in Pittsfield on June 17, 1863, Josiah Bartlett presided and the usual business was transacted; Dr. H. R. Storer of Boston read a paper as did Dr. Swinburne of Albany, N. Y.; Morrill Wyman gave the annual discourse. Delegates from the states of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut addressed the meeting and the Chair appointed delegates to all the New England states and to New Jersey. On the previous evening the council meeting was attended by twenty-nine councilors. Here are the minutes as to the annual dinner as set down by Francis Minot, Recording Secretary:

"At 2 1/2 o'clock P.M. the Society partook of a most elegant and bountiful dinner, by invitation of the citizens of Pittsfield, at which Dr. H. H. Childs, of Pittsfield, presided as anniversary chairman. Before the Fellows separated for their homes the following resolution, offered by Dr. William E. Coale of Boston, was unanimously adopted:— *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Massachusetts Medical Society be presented to the Fellows of the Berkshire District Medical Society, to the physicians, Principal of the Maplewood Ladies' Institute and citizens of Pittsfield, for their cordial welcome and generous hospitality; which, in connection with the pure air and unsurpassed mountain scenery of this delightful region, have made this one of the most pleasant and interesting of our annual gatherings."

Very likely this meeting in Pittsfield was the crowning occasion of the career of Dr. Childs. In this year he resigned as president of the Berkshire Medical Institution which he had founded forty years before. Full of honors, the leading medical man of Berkshire, he had brought to his home town the state society meeting, to do homage to his medical school.

The annual meeting of the society in Boston in 1856 merits some attention for it was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding. Elisha Huntington of Lowell was president and Benjamin Eddy Cotting of Roxbury secretary; the meeting was held in the hall of the Lowell Institute. The committee on scientific communications, as it was called at that time, made a report to the society, rather than to the council, as at present. Papers were read by

Alfred Hitchcock of Fitchburg, Silas Durkee of Boston, Benjamin Haskell of Rockport and H. I. Bowditch of Boston. A rather dramatic conferring of a prize came next, in the shape of the breaking of the seal of an envelope bearing a motto, that was presented to the president. It seems that at the previous adjourned meeting of the society on July 11, 1855, the corresponding secretary had announced that the society had received the sum of one hundred dollars to be given as a prize to the author of the best dissertation on the subject, "The History and Statistics of Ovariectomy." At the subsequent October meeting of the council a committee of three had been appointed to judge the papers presented, and now came the revealing of the author, who proved to be George H. Lyman of Boston. On being called for he gave a summary of the results arrived at in his prize paper. The annual discourse was delivered by John G. Metcalf of Mendon after which the fellows to the number of over five hundred, the largest number ever present at a meeting, were marshaled by Ezra Palmer, Jr., of Boston, to dinner at the Revere House. The post-prandial exercises have been preserved in a little pamphlet containing the speeches of Abraham Rand Thompson of Charlestown, who acted as anniversary chairman in place of Luther V. Bell, who was ill, and of James Jackson, John Homans, O. W. Holmes, Silas Durkee and H. W. Williams. An extract from Dr. Jackson's speech is not out of place here for it throws light on the operation of the act of 1803 in its early days, the testimony being presented by one of the chief actors in the drama of that time, then in his seventy-ninth year. He had been discussing the different standards required of candidates to practice in the state; the danger that the University (Harvard) might, at some future time, become as regardless of the qualifications of its graduates as had some foreign universities. He went on to say:

"This subject was often discussed in the early years after the amendment of our charter. In regard to it I can give a piece of history, probably not remembered at this day by anyone else. In 1810 I was appointed a professor in the medical school of the University. Within a very few years after that date a plan was proposed to the counsellors to obviate the difficulty which has been referred to. This plan was devised and brought forward by my late friend Dr. John C. Warren and myself, he also being a medical professor at that time. The features of this were these: first, that there should be formed a board of examiners, consisting of the medical professors of the University and of an equal number to be elected annually by the counsellors of the society; secondly, that all persons asking for a license from the society, and all asking



for medical degrees from the University, should be equally brought before this board of examiners; that they all should be examined in the same way, and that their admission to the privileges sought for by them respectively, should be decided by a vote of the board. It was our wish in proposing this plan to remove all causes of jealousy between the society and the university. We trusted that in this way the standard of admission to medical practice would be raised. This was in effect an offer from the medical school to the society. Unfortunately the counsellors of that day felt very indifferent on this subject, and after some delays allowed it to subside. This was done I believe without any direct vote upon it."

The thorough discussion by Dr. Jackson on this occasion of raising and maintaining a uniform standard of medical education undoubtedly had much to do with the passing of the act of 1859 by the legislature requiring every candidate for fellowship in the society to be examined by the censors. Dr. Homans felicitously pointed out one of the great benefits that are derived from the annual gatherings of the society. He said:

"It is always good, sir, for men engaged in the same pursuits and objects to meet together in a body, and look upon each others' faces and spend a few hours in the mutual interchange of thought and feeling. Even if they get no new ideas, no increase of knowledge, they get refreshment of spirit . . . This is especially beneficial to the physician, because his work is especially solitary. The mechanic and artisan works with his fellows and shares a divided responsibility. The clergyman meets his people in the church or the vestry and finds in them sympathising friends and coadjutors. The lawyer competes with his brother lawyer in the forum and at the bar, and is helped in his work by that strife and competition. But the physician's path is solitary. He goes from house to house, from one sick room to another, alone — and often life and death hang on his individual, unaided, solitary judgment, prudence and skill. He has little opportunity for daily intercourse, counsel or sympathy with his brethren. These occasional gatherings are, therefore, especially necessary and useful to us."

Further extracts from the interesting speeches made on that anniversary in May, 1856, might be made were space available. The milestone had been passed with suitable exercises to be followed twenty-five years later by a more pretentious occasion, as will be described at the end of this chapter.

Malpractice defence was first considered by a committee in 1850 when the Southern District asked for protection from suits for malpractice that were becoming more frequent at that time. A second committee appointed to consider the matter reported through Dr. Samuel Parkman, at the meeting of the society in June, 1853.

The report was a valuable one, for it laid down the principles on which malpractice defense should be undertaken by a medical society, after discussing the subject at length. The report will be found abstracted in the chapter on Malpractice Defence.

That Dr. Ira Barrows had been expelled from the society for cause in the year 1851 has been referred to. Subsequently he brought suit against Dr. D. H. Storer and Dr. Benoni Carpenter for libel. Next year the society assumed the expense of defending these suits; ultimately they cost the society \$1,940.71. Some account of these suits will be found in the chapters headed Police Duty and Discipline, and Financial.

An outstanding feature of the fifties was the passage by the legislature of the act requiring all candidates for fellowship in the society to be examined by the censors. This took its origin from a communication read to the council on June 2, 1857, by W. E. Coale, librarian in that year and corresponding secretary in 1864-1865, on behalf of the Suffolk District, recommending an alteration of the charter and by-laws, so as to require all candidates for fellowship to appear before the censors of the society. For the time being a motion to this effect was laid on the table, then the next February it was referred to a committee, who brought in several proposed amendments to the by-laws and a recommendation that the legislature be appealed to for a change in the charter. Finally the following act was passed and approved by the governor, March 5, 1859:

"Sec. 1. No person shall hereafter become a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, except upon examination by the Censors of said Society, and any person of good moral character, found to possess the qualifications prescribed by the rules and regulations of said Society, shall be admitted a Fellow of said Society. Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its passage."

The suggested changes in the by-laws and the act were referred to a committee, the by-laws were adopted at an adjourned meeting of the society, May 31, 1860, and appeared in the printed By-Laws of that year. The act itself was not adopted by the society. It is curious that in the by-law as to membership, contained in that revision of the by-laws, there should have been introduced after the specifications as to the attainments necessary for fellowship the following clause, when it is plain that the act of the legislature was binding on the society to submit all candidates to examination by the censors:

"But any person having been graduated as Doctor of Medicine at Harvard University, or the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall, if otherwise qualified, be admitted without further examination as to his medical attainments."

Apparently this clause had been passed by the council and adopted by the society without an understanding that it was contrary to the state law of 1859. To further protect the membership another clause was added to the by-law of 1860 after the one just referred to. Here it is:

"No person shall hereafter be admitted a member of the Society who professes to cure diseases by Spiritualism, Homoeopathy or Thompsonianism."

This was a proper by-law to govern the actions of the censors in approving candidates, it becoming one of the "rules and regulations" of the society, and not at all to be classed with the first clause which permitted certain candidates to enter the society without examination by the censors. The illegal clause had disappeared from the next revision of the by-laws in 1874, not to return. The provision as to practising different cults had been changed into the following in the by-laws of 1874:

"that he does not profess to cure diseases by, nor intend to practise, spiritualism, homoeopathy, allopathy, Thompsonianism, eclecticism, or any other irregular or exclusive system, generally recognized as such by the profession or declared so by the councillors of said society:"

Thus we see that the committee on ethics and discipline, organized June 6, 1871, had definite rules for action laid down in the by-laws at the time that they began a crusade against practitioners of the cults (the first batch of seven was expelled June 4, 1873), for had not practitioners of homeopathy signed the by-laws, agreeing to live under them, when these laws distinctly forbade those practising that cult from becoming fellows? Therefore it was legal to proceed against them for violating the terms of the by-laws they had agreed to observe. The allegation that the laws had been changed since they had become fellows and that therefore they were not bound by them, a defence put forward by some of the accused, indicated to most minds that honorable men would have seen in the change of the laws an opportunity to resign from a society which was governed by rules to which they could not subscribe.

The crusade against "irregular practitioners" had its inception in



the quarrel with the American Medical Association in 1870 when charges had been made to the association that the Massachusetts Medical Society harbored within its ranks such practitioners. It was a stormy time. We find this statement in the council record of February 7, 1872:

"Dr. John Dole, in behalf of the Hampshire District Medical Society, presented a preamble and resolutions expressing the fullest sympathy and accord with the parent society in its position with regard to irregular practitioners within its body, desiring that the issue should be pushed to a speedy and ultimate conclusion, and authorizing the Treasurer to retain in the treasury the amount arising from the assessment of members which would be otherwise refunded to that district society, the said amount to be used in the payment of such legal expenses as the circumstances may require, and furthermore expressing a willingness to be taxed, in proportion, for such additional sums as may be required to carry on the suit."

The committee on ethics and discipline began a book of minutes October 29, 1874, under the secretaryship of F. W. Draper, — a book which has been posted regularly up to the present, — and made its first report to the council on June 8, 1875. As we may see in the chapter on Police Duty and Discipline boards of trial were instituted in 1856 after an unsuccessful attempt had been made to hold the district societies responsible for disciplining their members, for the districts persisted in appealing to the parent society to settle difficulties with their recalcitrant fellows. After the first cases the boards of trial reported their findings to the annual meeting of the society, and when the committee on ethics and discipline had been established it took care of all the preliminaries of the investigation of charges, recommending the calling of boards of trial, through the president, in suitable cases.

The quarrel with homeopathic practitioners ended in 1877 with the expulsion of two fellows who admitted that they had practised according to the tenets of that cult. In recent times the forsaking of the extreme views of Hahnemann and the improvement in the standards of medical education have removed the stigma attaching to the early practitioners of homeopathy and they have become regular.

Returning to the relations of the Massachusetts Medical Society with the American Medical Association, traced in the last chapter up to the year 1865, the council of the Massachusetts Society, following the idea embodied in the act of the legislature of February 18, 1850, authorized the district societies, February 4, 1852, to



MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE IN MASON STREET, 1816







appoint delegates to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association and in the next October directed the secretary of the society to issue to the several districts blank certificates for delegates, to be signed by each delegate and by the president of the society. The vote to issue such certificates was repeated every year until 1870. The American Medical Association met in Boston for the second time in 1865, under the presidency of N. S. Davis of Chicago. Augustus Addison Gould of Boston was president of the state society, which omitted its annual dinner that year because of lack of funds. The meeting was held only two months after Lee's surrender at Appomattox and the attendance, six hundred and sixteen, was almost entirely from the eastern states. The meetings were held in the State House, Henry J. Bigelow delivering the address of welcome on the part of the local committee of arrangements, Governor John A. Andrew speaking before the general meeting later in the week. On the last day D. Humphreys Storer of Boston was elected president.

A quarrel with the national society was begun in 1870 when a protest was made by certain Massachusetts physicians at the meeting of the association in Washington on May 3, against admitting to that body the delegates sent by the Massachusetts society. Dr. R. L. Hodgdon reported on the incident to the Council, May 24, 1870, for the delegation, which included in its membership besides Dr. Hodgdon, Oramel Martin, Robert Amory, Henry Tuck, C. T. Collins, J. Orne Green and J. Collins Warren. The delegation recommended that a committee of five fellows be appointed to investigate the facts. From the report of this committee of five it appeared that the protest had been made by Dr. John L. Sullivan of Malden and Dr. Horatio R. Storer of Boston on behalf of the Boston Gynecological Society, on the ground that the Massachusetts Medical Society tolerated in its ranks men who were acknowledged to have become homeopaths and eclectics. The delegates from Massachusetts were not seated. As both Sullivan and Storer were members of the state society the committee thought that they had not given proper notice to that society of their intention to present a protest and that their action was, at least, an act of discourtesy; it found further that the action of the American Medical Association in imposing conditions on the rights of the Massachusetts Medical Society was ill-considered and unwarranted; the committee advised that before again sending delegates

to the Association a committee be appointed to make a formal representation to that body with a view to procuring a reconsideration of its action in excluding delegates from Massachusetts.

The new committee as appointed, headed by W. W. Wellington, presented a long report in which the purposes and practices of the Massachusetts Medical Society since its incorporation were set forth; the society had always opposed quackery and had passed a resolution at its last annual meeting expelling all those who publicly professed to practise in accordance with any exclusive dogma, whether calling themselves homeopaths, hydropaths, eclectics, or what not, in violation of the code of ethics of the American Medical Association; the society had not favored graduates of the Harvard Medical School to the detriment of the graduates of other medical schools, as alleged by the protestors. This report, with an abstract and history of the laws of the society regarding membership, was sent to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association in San Francisco in May, 1871, and to the permanent secretary of the association, Dr. W. B. Atkinson, in Philadelphia. Meanwhile the council had voted, October 5, 1870, to send no delegates to the San Francisco meeting.

Dr. Atkinson wrote, under date of July 18, 1871, that the action of the Massachusetts Medical Society in expelling homeopaths and eclectics was sufficient evidence that said society was disposed to comply with the code of ethics and was therefore fully entitled to representation in the American Medical Association.

It is difficult to understand at this distance — even after reading the original protest, dated April 19, 1870, signed by Winslow Lewis, President, and Horatio R. Storer, Secretary — why the Boston Gynecological Society should have felt called upon to take such drastic action against its own state society. This gynecological society, according to a letter from H. R. Storer dated October 20, 1870, preserved in the files, was composed of seventeen members, all of them fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society. In an explanatory statement, issued to the committee upon ethics of the American Medical Association under date of May 3, 1870, Dr. Storer and Dr. Sullivan stated that charges in writing had "been made against the irregular practitioners themselves" and that the Massachusetts Medical Society had failed to take action. Here we see the extent to which the prejudice against the homeopaths had gone at that time. The letter stated further that the

graduates of Harvard could be admitted to the state society upon the mere presentation of a diploma, whereas graduates of other colleges were obliged to pass an examination. According to By-Law I of the edition of the by-laws of 1860, then in force, this was true. By 1870 the Berkshire Medical Institution, grouped with Harvard in that by-law, had gone out of existence. Elsewhere we have commented on the illegality of this provision, under the terms of the legislative act of 1850.

In the report of Dr. Wellington's committee it was pointed out that the delegates at that time, being chosen by the district societies, were not under the direct control of the parent society. We gather from the following vote in the council records of June 13, 1876, that the custom of sending delegates by the district societies directly was still in operation:

*"Voted, That the secretaries of district societies be instructed to notify delegates to the American Medical Association that they must inform the recording secretary of the state society if they intend to be present at the meetings of the Association, in order that certificates may be sent to them."*

The bad feeling aroused by the unwarranted action of the Boston Gynecological Society lasted for many long years. The quarrel aroused the state society to energetic action against irregular practitioners acting through its committee on ethics and discipline and boards of trial as is described in the chapter on Police Duty and Discipline.

The present system — delegates to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association appointed by the council — was inaugurated February 5, 1902, when President F. W. Draper announced that the president of the American Medical Association had requested that, in accordance with recent changes in the constitution and by-laws of the Association, the society (council) and not the districts appoint delegates to its meetings. Consequently the resolution that had been adopted February, 1852, authorizing the district societies to appoint the delegates, was rescinded and a vote passed that in future the delegates should be selected by the council. In that year of 1902 six delegates were appointed. At the present time the state is entitled to five delegates, one for each seven hundred and fifty fellows, elected, three one year and two the next, to serve two years.

The delegates usually attend the meetings of the House of Delegates faithfully; the society pays their travelling expenses; the



delegates report at a subsequent meeting of the council. The society has worked in harmony with the national organization for many years and the quarrel of 1870 has been forgotten. The American Medical Association met in Boston in 1906, the year the new buildings of the Harvard Medical School were dedicated. Dr. William J. Mayo was president, the registration was 4722; addresses were made by Governor Curtis Guild, President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard, Arthur T. Cabot, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Herbert L. Burrell, chairman of the Boston committee of arrangements. Again the association met in Boston in 1921 under the presidency of Hubert Work of Colorado, John W. Bartol of Boston being president of the state society and the attendance 5506, a most successful meeting.

It was one of the objects of the Massachusetts society to furnish its fellows with suitable medical literature, not only to gather the best papers that could be produced at home but to cull the best from the medical literature of the outside world and distribute it throughout the state. The Library of Practical Medicine had its beginning in the following report of the publishing committee at the council meeting of February 2, 1831, as spread upon the manuscript records:

"REPORT. Boston, Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1831. The publishing committee of the M.M. Society to whom was referred the subject of an annual publication report as follows:

"That it is expedient for the Society to prepare a compilation or reprint of some practical work or works on medical science not to exceed 500 pages to be offered to the Fellows of the Society at their next annual meeting.

"That those persons and those only shall be entitled to receive one copy each, who are Fellows of the Society at the time of said annual meeting and have paid their assessments up to that time; or who are retired members of the Society honorably dismissed.

(Signed) Jacob Bigelow

*Chairman*

"Voted, To accept the report.

"Voted, That the publishing committee be directed to prepare the work and publish the same."

The "Committee of Publication" at this time consisted of Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward and Enoch Hale, a forceful trio who would be expected to produce results. In the chapter on Publications the twenty-five volumes of the Library of Practical Medicine, stretching from 1831 to 1868, are described. The proposition

to publish a periodical journal of medicine having come to naught in 1847 the council adopted, May 30, 1848, a recommendation of a committee, headed by John Ware, appointed to consider the by-laws and whether any alterations in them were necessary in this language:

"There may be annually prepared, under the direction of the Counsellors, and at the expense of the Society, a Retrospect of the medical literature and science of the preceding year, having reference especially to discoveries and improvements of practical value. This Retrospect shall be published in place of, or in addition to, the present annual volume, at the discretion of the Counsellors."

The vote of 1848 became effective in October, 1853, and "Braithwaite's Retrospect" was distributed regularly to the paid-up fellows until discontinued in 1893, a period of forty years.

A two-day session of the annual meeting of the society was first broached at the annual meeting of the council, May 24, 1864, by John Homans and he and Dr. John Leland Miller of Pittsfield were made a committee to consider the subject. A report in favor of spreading the annual meeting over two days was accepted at the February meeting of the council in 1865, the first two-day meeting being held in 1866, under the presidency of Augustus Addison Gould. A committee of six had arranged the program which consisted of a morning session on Tuesday, May 29, 1866, when the following men read papers: J. C. White, H. K. Oliver, Morrill Wyman, R. M. Hodges, Walter Channing, H. J. Bigelow and David W. Cheever; an afternoon session when J. Mason Warren, H. W. Williams and H. R. Storer read papers and showed specimens, and delegates from the medical societies of New York and New Hampshire were presented to the meeting. On the second day the meeting was in the same hall — the Lowell Institute — in the morning. Dr. Luther Parks, Jr., read a report of his committee on Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis; Dr. Ephraim Cutter of Woburn exhibited a model of a fracture bed and also of an atomizer; Dr. Alonzo Chapin of Winchester, one of the committee to arrange the two-day meeting, read a paper on the medicinal qualities of the common mullein; Dr. H. R. Storer, one on the abatement of criminal abortion by medical men, and Dr. George Cheyne Shattuck gave the annual discourse on "The Medical Profession and Society." The annual dinner was served in Music Hall at two o'clock. Judging by the fact that adjournment was

recorded as being at 6 P.M. one may suppose that the dinner and speeches were enjoyed.

The society started on a career of renewed activity after this anniversary. During the Civil War it had been marking time, though always maintaining its organization, the treasury had been depleted, many of the fellows had been in military or naval service, there had been no annual dinners in 1861, 1862 and 1865; — the membership roster had been allowed to get into a sloppy state. We read this entry in the report of a committee headed by S. D. Townsend to act on a report of the committee on "membership and resignations," at the annual meeting in Pittsfield in 1863.

"That they have examined the list of delinquents and have distributed them under the following heads, viz.,

1. Those who are far advanced in age, but who have neglected to make the requisite application to become retired members. It is recommended that their dues be remitted and that they be considered as retired members.
2. Those who are believed to be abundantly able to pay, but who, from neglect or disinclination, have failed to do so. Some, indeed, have never paid an assessment since entrance. It is recommended that those who owe five assessments, and less than ten, be immediately sued for the same; and that those who are delinquent for ten assessments be informed that unless their dues are satisfactorily adjusted within a specified time, their names will be stricken from the list of members.
3. Those who deny membership, or appear to have been enrolled without their knowledge or consent. It is recommended that their names be erased from our Catalogue.
4. Those who have not been heard from for many years, and are believed to have left the state. These are to be marked Removed and their accounts discontinued."

A list of names to be placed under the four headings was submitted with the report, which was accepted and adopted.

The grand clean-up of membership was made in 1876, as noted in the chapter on Membership, when the society had the interested service of two young men, secretary and previous secretary, F. W. Goss and F. W. Draper, thirty-four and thirty-three years of age respectively. They devoted their energies to a time-consuming and tedious piece of work which they knew ought to be done and would raise the morale of the society. Since that time the membership list has been trued up by the treasurer and the committee on membership and finance at almost every meeting of the council, the system being modeled on that which had been developed in





those far-gone years. Eternal vigilance is the price of efficiency, when membership matters are concerned. This is now understood by the fellows and by the officers of the society.

As has been noted in the preceding chapter a committee of arrangements for the annual meeting was provided for in the revision of the by-laws of 1849. This is the vote of the council, February 20, 1849, which made the first committee:

*"Voted, That the President and Recording Secretary be authorized to appoint a committee of five to make arrangements for the annual meeting. The following gentlemen were appointed, viz. Drs. C. H. Stedman, South Boston; J. V. C. Smith, Boston; Morrill Wyman, Cambridge; G. A. Bethune, Boston, and W. J. Dale, Boston."*

Committees of five or six were appointed each year, generally at the annual meeting of the council, to arrange for the annual meeting of the following year. For the annual meetings held away from Boston in the years 1851, 1852, 1854, 1855, 1857, 1863, committees were appointed from men living in the city where the meeting was to be held. In 1862, for instance, the council voted that the appointment of a committee of arrangements be referred to the Berkshire District Medical Society, with power, for the society was to meet in Pittsfield in 1863. In recent years the standing committee has consisted of six members, the chairman transacting a large part of the business of planning for the meeting of the society, going out of office with the close of the meeting he had arranged, and succeeded at the bottom end of the list of committeemen by a new member, nominated by the president and elected by the council. The custom for a long time has been for the outgoing chairman to propose the name of a new member to the president just before the meeting. In this way the new member is likely to be one who is fitted for the committee by reason of his training and character. Managing an annual meeting in recent years has been a laborious undertaking, one requiring a large amount of time expended by the chairman through the winter and spring, with a very strenuous two days at the end. The society has been most fortunate in the choice of its chairmen as attested by the results of their efforts.

The position of "Anniversary Chairman" was originated in 1849 for we find in the Rules and Orders of the Society that were accepted by the annual meeting of that year this provision:

"2. On the day of the annual meeting, a dinner shall be provided, at the expense of the Society, under the direction of the Anniversary Chairman, and the Committee appointed for that purpose."

The same provision appears in the Rules and Orders of 1860 and subsequently through 1893. It is to be supposed that the art of presiding over a large public dinner was not possessed by those otherwise fitted for the presidential office. The first anniversary chairman was Henry Halsey Childs of Pittsfield, who presided over the dinner at Worcester in 1851, the next was Oliver Wendell Holmes of Boston who acted in that capacity at Pittsfield in 1852. The last anniversary chairman was Herbert Leslie Burrell of Boston who presided at the dinner in Boston, June 11, 1895. The office was abolished at an adjourned meeting of the society, October 3, 1894, the president of the society acting as presiding officer after that date. A list of the anniversary chairmen from 1851 to 1895, with the dates and the places of the meetings, will be found in the Appendix at the end of this book.

The interest of the Massachusetts Medical Society in having a proper registration of births, deaths and marriages in the state began in 1839 with a suggestion of the committee that had been appointed by the council to consider the whole subject of the constitution and by-laws of the society. The committee was composed of one fellow from each county of the state, and met in Worcester on July 10 and 11, 1839, with Enoch Hale as chairman and John C. Dalton as secretary, only two delegates being absent. It recommended that "statistical returns" be referred to a committee to devise and report a plan, if any be practicable, for carrying it into effect. The committee, consisting of Enoch Hale, Paul Swift and D. Humphreys Storer, reported to the annual meeting of the council, May 28, 1840, pointing out the necessity of a "correct bill of mortality" that all of the facts as to births, deaths and marriages should be recorded regularly as a matter of course; that the Revised Statutes of the year 1836 were inadequate; that the legislature might be urged to pass an improved law, and that meanwhile the society should "look to the free and voluntary labors of its members for the formation of such a bill as is needed." The committee reported again February 3, 1841, that it was of little use for the fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society to record the births and deaths in their practice as it would serve for only a part of the commonwealth, so they recommended that the council

present a memorial to the legislature asking that body to provide "an effectual system of registration and return of deaths, births and marriages in all the towns of this Commonwealth." The memorial was duly drawn up and signed by the president of the society at that time, Dr. Rufus Wyman, and by the recording secretary, George W. Otis. Finally a committee appointed to memorialize the legislature, now composed of Enoch Hale, Ebenezer Alden and D. H. Storer, reported in these words to the annual meeting of the society, May 25, 1842:

"That at the last session of the Legislature an Act was passed, entitled "An Act relating to the registry and returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths," which was approved by the Governor on the 3d of March last. Although this Act does not provide so effectually for a complete system of registration and return, as the Committee would have desired, they are not without sanguine hopes, that it may be so far carried into effect, as to be of important service to the cause of science and humanity; and, at least, prepare the way for a more perfect system hereafter. Much of the efficacy and value of this law will depend upon the degree of cooperation of physicians; especially in regard to the returns of deaths and their causes. The Committee, therefore, respectfully recommend that the Society express its interest in this subject, and the disposition of its Fellows to aid in carrying into effect the provisions of the law, by adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society will cheerfully aid in carrying into effect the provisions of "An Act relating to the registry and returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths," by furnishing information of the deaths that may come under their observation, with their causes, and by any other means that may properly pertain to their duty as physicians."

The society adopted the resolution, thereby starting the state on a progressive career as regards statistical health legislation.

At the October meeting of the council, 1857, Benjamin Cutter of Woburn presented some resolutions from the Middlesex East district society asking for action on a proposition to register the diseases of the state. Accordingly a committee of three was appointed made up of Dr. Cutter, Dr. A. A. Watson of Boston, sometime librarian of the society, and Dr. Edward Jarvis of Dorchester, who had been a member of a commission of the legislature in the year 1854 to inquire into the number and condition of the insane and idiots in Massachusetts, writing a noteworthy report of that commission and becoming later an authority on vital statistics. The report, signed by all three members of the committee, was duly presented in February, 1858. It reaffirmed a resolution passed by the Suffolk District society in 1851, namely,



"Resolved, That it is the duty of the Massachusetts Medical Society, as the guardian of the public health, systematically to pursue an investigation into the causes, history and treatment of the diseases of this Commonwealth, in all its various parts; and that it should also take means to communicate to its members, in the most condensed form, all the information of true practical value which is every year offered to the profession;"

It enumerated the advantages likely to accrue from a uniform registration of diseases throughout the state; pointed out that the careful keeping of notes of the cases that came under his observation was a help to the practitioner, as making him more careful and exact and calling his attention to the fact that he shares some of the responsibility with his associates, also that the reporting of cases gave every physician something that he personally could do for the bettering of health conditions. The report recommended that each fellow of the society keep a record of his cases according to a printed form common to all and make a return annually to the secretary of his district society, who should digest and arrange the returns from the district and deliver his abstract to the secretary of the parent society. At this same meeting of the council Dr. Jarvis, one of the committee, whose report had just been read, offered the following resolve:

"Resolved, That the Massachusetts Medical Society petition the legislature of this Commonwealth to amend the law providing for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, so as to secure more complete returns of these facts to the Secretary of State, and more effectually attain the objects of the law."

The committee report was referred to a committee of one from each district society, with Benjamin Cutter at its head. His report, dated Woburn, May 24, 1859, reads as follows:

"The committee report that returns have been received from 14 out of 17 medical districts. Only one reported in full, the others varied from one half to much smaller fractions. Returns were made by about 120 fellows throughout the state, perhaps a sixth of all the fellows engaged in active practice. The committee consider that the result of the effort is quite as favourable as could have been expected and much better than usually attends such enterprises in their inception. From every part of the state promises are made to increase returns two or three fold. Experience suggests improvements. So much has been effected that the committee would recommend that the resolutions of last year, introduced by Dr. [H. I.] Bowditch, be readopted the present year and the committee on registration be continued."

The resolutions referred to were submitted to the council on May 25, 1858. They provided for the registration of "Zymotic

Diseases" by the system devised and carried out by the Middlesex East district society, the secretary of the society being directed to have the requisite blanks printed and distributed; that the returns be sent by each fellow to the district secretary in January for the preceding year; that the secretary of the district society digest the reports and transmit them to the secretary of the state society before the first of April, annually; that the secretary of the state society or some other member appointed for the purpose, digest and congest the reports into one report for the state, which should be printed with the "Annual Transactions." The annual meeting of the society continued the committee on the registration of diseases for one year; in February, 1859, the returns from the several districts were referred to Dr. Benjamin Cutter to digest and condense into one report for the state. Dr. Cutter submitted a condensed report in May, 1859. The following year he was requested to perform a similar service for the society and he was made chairman of another committee to revise the nomenclature blanks for the reports on the "Zymoses." On May 30, 1860, a report of the committee on zymoses was accepted and at the annual meeting of the society that year Dr. Ephraim Cutter of Woburn, son of Benjamin, read a paper on "Zymoses of 1857 occurring in the Middlesex East District Medical Society." This was published in volume V, page 255 of the Medical Communications of the society, the "Zymoses of 1858," by Benjamin Cutter, beginning on page 301 of the same volume.

The next factor showing the interest and activity of the state medical society in public health and its proper supervision was a resolution introduced into the council at its meeting on February 6, 1861, by John Jeffries of Boston. Before reproducing the resolution and the explanatory statements which accompanied it let us refer to a far-seeing report made by a commission appointed by the state under a resolve of the legislature, passed May 2, 1849, for a sanitary survey of the state. The commission consisted of Lemuel Shattuck, Nathaniel P. Banks and Jehiel Abbot. The appointment of the commission was promoted by a communication to the council of the society presented by Dr. H. I. Bowditch, May 30, 1848, asking that the society approve and encourage the plan of a sanitary survey of the state, which was proposed by the American Statistical Association to the legislature. The next day the society approved the plan and appointed the president, John Ware, Ed-

ward Jarvis and J. C. Dalton a committee to prepare a petition and present it to the legislature. Later the chairman of the commission, Mr. Lemuel Shattuck, came to the council for assistance, especially in the matter of a systematic nomenclature of diseases and causes of death, using as a basis a report to the American Medical Association that was signed by John H. Griscom of New York, Lemuel Shattuck of Boston, T. Romeyn Beck of Albany, Edward Jarvis of Dorchester, G. Emerson of Philadelphia and Charles A. Lee of Geneva. Thus we see that Shattuck and Jarvis had been on the committee of the national association and were improving on their previous work undertaken for that organization, in their findings for their native state.

They received the assistance they asked for in a thirteen-page report, signed by Edward Jarvis, John D. Fisher and S. Parkman, now preserved in the society's files in an envelope labelled by Dr. Bowditch, under date of November, 1849.

The report when published in 1850 laid the foundation of all subsequent health legislation and has been spoken of by experts as a remarkable document. The activity of H. I. Bowditch in public health matters is to be noted at this early date.

The resolution offered by John Jeffries to the council on February 6, 1861, follows:

*"Resolved, That the Massachusetts Medical Society petition the Legislature to grant the petition of the Boston Sanitary Association, for the establishment of a State Board of Health, for the purpose of looking after the sanitary interests of the people, with a competent secretary, as the Agricultural Board and the Board of Education look after the interests of agriculture and education."*

*"That the Board of Health have charge of the registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and the census of all the other vital statistics of the Commonwealth."*

*"That the Board have some visitatorial power in connection with the Lunatic Hospitals, and all other state charitable institutions where the sick and suffering are kept."*

*"That every member of the Medical Society be requested to use his influence with the senator and representative from his district, to persuade them to support this measure in the Legislature."*

*"That the several District Societies be requested to take action in behalf of this measure, and use their efforts for its adoption."*

*"That a petition be drawn up for this purpose, signed by the President and Secretary, and sent by a committee to the Legislature, which committee be requested to appear before any committee of the Legislature and urge the adoption of this measure."*





BOSTON ATHENAEUM IN PEARL STREET ABOUT 1830. THE MEETING PLACE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY WAS IN A HALL IN THE REAR.

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The committee appointed to present the petition was J. Jeffries, Boston; George Choate, Salem; Anson Hooker, Cambridge; Charles H. Stedman, Boston, and B. E. Cotting, Roxbury. So far as the records show, the legislature did not heed the petition. Another committee was appointed by the council in February of 1862 to urge the "establishment of a State Sanitary Commission." Bowditch was on the committee, of which J. C. Dalton was chairman. Nothing happened. It was war time and there were many obligations on the state that required all of its energies. In this year Dr. H. I. Bowditch delivered the annual discourse before the society with the topic: "Topographical distribution and local origin of consumption in Massachusetts." As may be imagined such an address brought its author into prominence in public health circles. Again in February, 1863, the council addressed the legislature in aid of the memorial of the Boston Sanitary Association for the establishment of a "Board of Health and Vital Statistics." The president, Josiah Bartlett and five others were to constitute the committee to draw and present the address. No result had been obtained in 1865 when Dr. Bowditch caused to be appointed a committee of one from each district society, with Luther Parks, Jr., as chairman, under the following resolution:

*"Resolved, That a committee of one from each district society be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to report at the next annual meeting of this society, upon the prevalence of the disease called Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, or Spotted Fever."*

Once more Dr. Bowditch showed himself a champion of the public health.

In February, 1868, Dr. Jarvis asked the council for a committee to petition the legislature to order the Committee of Charitable Institutions to inquire whether from 80 to 90 per cent of all deserted or foundling children that were sent to the almshouses died in their first year. Next June he reported as chairman that a report had been made to the legislature that the average mortality of infants at Tewksbury almshouse was 85 per cent and an act to establish a foundling hospital at Bridgewater had been submitted. It was plain that the society was taking an active interest in health matters. Finally, in 1869, the legislature heeded the repeated requests for a board of health, passed an act creating one and making H. I. Bowditch its first chairman. What more appropriate choice could have been made? He had a genius for public health



work as was attested by his record in the past. During the ten years of his incumbency he organized and put through many measures for the benefit of the Commonwealth. This was the first state board of health to be established in the United States; it served as a model for the rest of the country. Through the shortsighted policy of the legislature of 1879, during the governorship of William Claflin, the board was merged with the State Board of Health, Lunacy and Charity against the strenuous opposition of Dr. Bowditch. He resigned when it became apparent that the merger was an accomplished fact. The society had continued to take an active interest in public health questions during the incumbency of Dr. Bowditch as is attested by the subjoined quotation from the council record of the meeting of October 7, 1874, written in the legible handwriting of Dr. F. W. Draper, recording secretary at that time:

"In compliance with instructions from the Norfolk District Medical Society acting pursuant to a provision of the Charter, Dr. [Robert] Amory, of Brookline, read a paper on The use of running brooks and natural streams as common sewers. The writer entered a vigorous protest against the common practice in cities and towns of turning the sewage of thickly settled communities into natural water courses. He deemed such a use of streams a fruitful source of disease. After a discussion in which Drs. Crowell of Haverhill, Hartwell of Ayer, Jones of Boston, Pineo of Hyannis, Townsend of Natick and Russell of Winchendon took part, all emphatically supporting the views set forth in Dr. Amory's paper, it was *Voted*, That Drs. Amory, Adams, Crowell, Hodgdon, Hartwell and Bowditch be a committee to consider the subject and report at the next meeting of the counsellors."

It will be noted that the chairman of the state board of health, Dr. Bowditch, was a member of this committee, which asked for more time at the February meeting in 1875 and reported in June that

"in consequence of the committee's representations before a committee of the legislature the General Court had passed a bill directing the State Board of Health to make a special investigation of the entire subject."

At this same meeting Dr. Bowditch was added to another committee charged with presenting a feasible plan for disposing of the slops and sewage of country houses, indicating an active interest by the society in bettering health conditions in the state.

The eminent Charles Follen Folsom of Boston, a fellow of the society, had been made secretary of the board of health in the summer of 1874 after studying hygiene abroad. He went abroad

again in 1875 to study the sewage disposal of various foreign cities, developing a plan for the sewerage of the city of Boston which was afterwards adopted in all its essential features.

The year following the merging of the board of health with the board of health, lunacy and charity, Dr. Henry Pickering Walcott of Cambridge was elected health officer, a position he filled until 1882 when he became chairman of the committee on health of that board. The legislature reorganized the board in 1886, separating it from the lunacy and charity departments. Dr. Walcott was made chairman and Dr. Samuel Warren Abbott of Wakefield secretary, two able men who carried the board forward to great efficiency and made it noted throughout the country. Dr. Walcott retained the office until in 1914 the board became the State Department of Health, with a commissioner and an advisory council, under the reorganization act of that year, having served the state most acceptably as health officer, board member and chairman for thirty-four years.

This is not the place to sketch the honorable career of our board of health, which was the first to be organized in the United States, but we are justified in claiming that the state society had much to do with its inception and in making it the successful body it has proved to be. Dr. Abbott was remarkable for his "Massachusetts Registration Reports of Births, Marriages and Deaths" from 1886 to 1896, he being the editor. Following his death in 1904 the hygienist Charles Harrington conducted the office of secretary for four years, until he too passed on. During the later years of the board under Dr. Walcott, previous to 1912, Dr. Mark Wyman Richardson of Boston, as secretary of the board, published important bacteriological work on immunity in typhoid fever. Dr. Walcott, an excellent presiding officer, served for many years as chairman of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, as chairman of the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, as overseer and, in 1900 and in 1905, as acting president of Harvard College. He was president of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1896 to 1898, when the duties of the censors were defined anew and the semiannual censors' examinations for admission to fellowship were established.

The story of women in medicine as touching the state medical society begins with an entry in the council record of June 4, 1867, when David W. Cheever, recording secretary, made this minute:

"The President read a letter from S. Eliot Esq., on the part of the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, requesting an expression of opinion from the Council as to the expediency of admitting females, as students, to visit the wards of the hospital. After a full debate, participated in by Drs. H. J. Bigelow, Shattuck, D. H. Storer, O. Martin, Collins, Root, Hunt, Jarvis and Hooper, on motion of Dr. A. B. Hall, it was *Resolved*, That in the opinion of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, it is inexpedient to admit females as students to our State medical schools and hospitals."

The yeas were forty-nine (49) and the nays seven (7) on the resolution. Why women were spoken of as "females" at this time and after is not so plain. The aversion in which they were held in any profession would lead one to suppose that Kipling's dictum that "the female of the species is more deadly than the male" was generally believed in those days. Beginning with 1872 it took seven years for women to be admitted to membership in the Massachusetts Medical Society, and then another three years before final settlement of the question. This is how it came about:

October 2, 1872, the council received a communication from the board of censors of the Suffolk District requesting instructions how to act on the application of a female physician for admission to the society. The communication follows:

"To Charles D. Homans, M.D., Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Sir:

Miss Susan Dimock, a graduate in Medicine of the University of Zurich, Switzerland, has applied to be examined for admission to the Mass. Med. Society. I have the honor to request instruction in this matter from the Board of Counsellors. Very respectfully your obedient servant

6 Park Square, Boston,  
September 13, 1872.

John Homans"

The communication was referred to the following committee of five: C. E. Buckingham, W. W. Wellington, Asa Millet, Samuel Cabot, R. L. Hodgdon. In February, 1873, Dr. Buckingham read a majority report, signed by four members of his committee and a minority report signed by Dr. W. W. Wellington. The majority recommended that the censors of the Suffolk District be notified that a female physician is entitled to examination for admission as a fellow under the provisions of the acts of the legislature of 1789 and 1859 concerning the society, the act of 1859 using the following language:



"any person of good moral character, found to possess the qualifications prescribed by the rules and regulations of said society, shall be admitted a fellow of said society.",

there being no distinctions of sex or color.

Dr. Wellington dissented, advising a reference to legal counsel to learn the rights of the society in the matter. The questions of right, expediency and law were discussed at length by the council and the matter referred back to the committee to ask legal advice as to the laws of the State and report at the next meeting.

Before proceeding to further occurrences it may be of interest to know something of Susan Dimock, who was the cause of all this discussion. She was a southerner, a native of Washington, North Carolina, who had been in Boston since 1864 and a student of medicine at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury in 1866-1867. Not being able to complete her medical education here she had entered the University of Zurich, Switzerland, graduating in 1871 at the age of twenty-four. Then she studied under Dr. Funk of Vienna who was much impressed with the talent of his pupil. After a few weeks study in Paris Dr. Dimock returned to Boston and took charge of the New England Hospital for Women and Children. There she had just established in 1872 the first training school for nurses in the United States when she applied for membership in the state medical society. Her promising career was brought to an untimely end in 1875 at the age of twenty-eight by the shipwreck of the *Schiller*, on which she was a passenger, off the coast of England. Dimock Street, Roxbury, was named in her honor as was a free bed in the New England Hospital for Women and Children.

The committee reported at the annual meeting of the council in 1873 that in their opinion the society had the power to admit or to refuse to admit females to membership. Here is the report of "Hon. E. R. Hoar and George Putnam, Jr., Esquire" on the legal aspects of the case submitted to them:

"Boston, March 11, 1873.

Charles E. Buckingham, M.D.,

Dear Sir,

We have carefully examined the questions raised by your communication of February 20th in relation to the application of Miss Susan Dimock to the Massachusetts Medical Society and we are of opinion:

1. That the Society may if it sees fit prescribe as a qualification for membership or license that the candidate shall be of the male sex.

2. That it has not as yet done so by its by-laws submitted to us (edition of 1861).

3. That in the absence of any such regulation by the Society it rests with the examiners or censors to whom the application is made to determine whether they will approve the licensing of a woman to practice and that it is competent for them to reject an applicant on the ground of her sex if in their judgment that is a disqualification for the practice of medicine or surgery.

4. That in the absence of any by-law of the Society excluding women from examination if any woman shall be licensed to practise by the proper officers of the Society she will therefore be entitled to membership of the society.

Very respectfully yours

E. R. Hoar

George Putnam, Jr."

The council voted at this meeting to instruct the censors of the society not to admit females to examination as candidates for admission to fellowship. There the matter rested for two years when, at the annual meeting of the council June 8, 1875, Dr. H. I. Bowditch, who had the cause of women in medicine very much at heart, made the following motion, which was seconded by Dr. Samuel Cabot and passed:

*"Moved, That a committee of five be appointed to report, at the next Councillors' meeting, whether some plan cannot be devised whereby a woman who has been thoroughly educated in Medicine and Surgery can receive the rights and privileges which membership of this Society gives to all Fellows belonging to it."*

These were chosen to serve on the committee: H. I. Bowditch, Boston; S. A. Fisk, Northampton; S. Cabot, Boston; Joseph Sargent, Worcester; W. W. Wellington, Cambridgeport.

The majority report of the committee, signed by H. I. Bowditch, S. Cabot and Joseph Sargent, presented October 6, 1875, ended with this resolve:

*"That hereafter the censors are directed to examine all applicants whether male or female who may apply for license to practise under the laws of the Commonwealth."*

The minority report, submitted by W. W. Wellington, closed with this sentence:

*"I would, therefore, in behalf of Dr. Fisk and myself, recommend the indefinite postponement of the subject of the examination of women for admission to the Mass. Med. Society."*

The reports are too lengthy to be printed here. Dr. Wellington thought that the number of women qualified to practice in the

state very few; that it would be wiser to wait until they had demonstrated their ability to enter the field of medicine before admitting them to the society, although he held that they were not fitted to practise by reason of their sex characteristics. The majority report claimed a right to fellowship on general principles and abstract justice; that women had made good in medicine abroad; that their status would be fixed if given fellowship, and that it would be only a relatively short time before many women would be in the ranks and must be admitted as a matter of course.

The reports brought out an "animated discussion" participated in by councilors Bowditch, Cabot, Pineo, Wellington, Williams, Shattuck, H. Holmes, and Bronson. On being put to a vote the whole subject of the admission of women was indefinitely postponed.

The next happening was the presentation at the annual meeting of the council in 1878 of a document from the Middlesex South District Society to the following effect:

"At a meeting of the Middlesex South District Medical Society, held October 10th 1877 the following resolutions were passed, with few dissenting voices: *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this society, the time has come, when women should have the privilege of examination by any board of censors, acting for the Massachusetts Medical Society. *Resolved*, That it is the desire of this society, that well-qualified female practitioners shall, after examination, be admitted to the Massachusetts Medical Society. *Resolved*, That the councillors of this society, be instructed to communicate these resolves, at the next meeting of the councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

The document goes on to say that through inadvertence the presentation to the council had not been made until the following June, that in the interval a questionnaire had been sent out to all the fellows of the parent society asking whether they were in favor of admitting women who were thoroughly educated in medicine and surgery to full fellowship, after examination before the censors, or whether they favored letting women take the examinations before the censors and, having passed, giving them certificates making them eligible to consultation and such other rights as the society might grant them from time to time. Sixty per cent replied to the questionnaire. Of these, 58 % were in favor of the admission of properly educated women to full fellowship; 13 % were in favor of a certified examination, and 28 % were opposed to any recognition of female practitioners by the society. In other words 71 % of those replying expressed themselves in favor of some form of recognition while 28 % were opposed to any action by the society.



The council appointed a committee of five to consider the document. They were: R. L. Hodgdon, H. W. Williams, A. Hosmer, G. E. Francis and J. H. Mackie. At the annual meeting of the council in June, 1879, they reported that they were equally divided — two in favor, two opposed and one not heard from — and were instructed to withdraw and try to agree on a verdict. In October majority and minority reports were presented, the majority signed by Dr. Williams, Dr. Hosmer, and Dr. Mackie and the minority by Dr. Hodgdon and Dr. Francis. The majority recommended that no action be taken, the minority that the petition of the Middlesex South District be granted. The minority report was adopted by a vote of 48 to 32 and it was

*"Voted, That the Censors of the Massachusetts Medical Society be, and hereby are, instructed to admit women to examination for admission to the Society on the same conditions as men."*

One would have thought that this action would end the lengthy discussion, but it was not to be. The next February the censors of the Suffolk District presented a long protest against the action of the council alleging that unless the vote was ratified by the society they should consider it "not binding, and its execution not in accordance with the custom or constitution of the Society," whereupon the council reconsidered its former action, by vote, and women were out again. The next year, namely, on February 2, 1881, the irrepressible H. I. Bowditch presented two resolutions recommending that the censors should be directed to examine women for admission and that the secretary should present the resolution to the next meeting of the society for ratification. The resolutions were tabled. Again in October of that year he put in some more resolutions to the effect that legal advice should be sought whether the council or the society had the right to examine women for admission and to give diplomas stating that they had been so examined. These met the same fate. The question reached a final settlement at an adjourned meeting of the society on June 13, 1882, when on the initiative of Dr. Hodgdon, who was on the first committee in 1872, it was

*"Voted, That in the opinion of the members here present it is expedient that well-qualified women be admitted to fellowship on the same terms as men, and that the Secretary be instructed to lay this vote before the Council tonight."*

The vote was adopted by a vote of 104 to 60. When it was presented to the council on the same day it was discussed and a vote was passed that "further consideration of the subject be indefinitely postponed," 65 being in favor and 36 opposed. Since that time the subject has not been revived, women have become fellows of the society in ordinary course, and we marvel that there could be so much and so long sustained opposition to what today we regard as the obvious.

The means by which Massachusetts obtained its present excellent system of medical examiners, a model for the other states of the Union, in place of the notoriously inefficient and corrupt coroners, is worthy of description. The first mention of the coroner system was in the minutes of the council of February 5, 1851, when the Boston Society for Medical Observation offered the following communication through the chairman of a committee composed of C. E. Buckingham, Henry G. Clark and Henry W. Williams:

"At a meeting of the Boston Society for Medical Observation, February 3, 1851, a paper upon 'Medical Coronerships' was read by J. C. Dalton Jr. M.D. The subject is by no means fully understood by the public, nor even by the Government, and it is believed by the Society for Medical Observation that a movement by the profession, aided by the counsellors of the parent society, might have a beneficial result. I therefore, in behalf of a committee of that society respectfully request that the council may give us such aid, as we may desire in urging upon the Governor and Council, and if necessary upon the Legislature of the State, the propriety of filling vacancies in the office of Coroner, from our profession.

I remain, in behalf of the committee, very respectfully

Chas. E. Buckingham"

Boston, Feb. 4th, 1851.

This communication "was referred to the following individuals, with full power: C. E. Buckingham, H. G. Clark, Anson Hooker, L. V. Bell." A careful search of the minutes and the files subsequent to that February meeting in 1851 failed to show that the "individuals" mentioned ever reported to the council. If they did there is nothing now to show it. The next entry on this subject is in the record of February 5, 1868. There we read:

"Dr. Alonzo Chapin, of Winchester, offered the following resolution, which he said was done in accordance with a vote of the Middlesex East District Society; viz:—*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair, who shall request of the Governor and Council the appointment, when practicable, of medical men to the office of Coroner in the different Districts of this State.'"

The resolution was adopted and the president appointed Edward Jarvis, Dorchester, Morrill Wyman, Cambridge, and J. B. S. Jackson, Boston, as the committee of three. On October 7 of that year Dr. Jarvis reported for his committee that he had seen the Governor (Alexander H. Bullock), who had told him that the resolution of the councillors should be considered whenever there was a vacancy in the office of coroner. The harmony between the governor and the society in the matter of appointment to the office of coroner and medical examiner has existed even to the present day, for governors have generally observed the custom of asking the advice of the society before choosing those officers.

As yet nothing has been said about the unsatisfactory service rendered by the average coroner, who was a semi-political appointment and seldom possessed even the rudiments of the training necessary for a proper performance of the duties of the office. In the year 1876, during the presidency of William Cogswell, of Bradford, Dr. Benjamin Eddy Cotting of Roxbury, who had just finished a two-year term as president, stated at the meeting of the council in October that he had been requested to call attention to the harm which the community and the profession had suffered, notably of late, from improper persons performing the functions of coroner. He therefore moved and the council

*"Voted, That a committee of five be appointed by the councilors to take into consideration the defects of the present laws relative to the appointment and practices of coroners, so far as these defects involve the Medical Profession, and to report at the next meeting what action, if any, is advisable."*

The president appointed as this committee: B. E. Cotting, J. C. How, W. W. Wellington, W. L. Richardson and J. Collins Warren. The report of this committee to the council, February 7, 1877, is so important as explaining the situation concerning coroners at that time that I am going to reproduce it here.

The committee

*"find a general dissatisfaction with the present coroners' system, and a call for its thorough re-modeling, not only in this country but throughout England also, — these being the two countries which now have such a system. That this dissatisfaction is shared by the medical and legal professions Because the system is a remnant of past and obsolete usages and wholly unsuited to the needs of the present times; Because of the many unrestricted and very dangerous powers now pertaining to the office of coroner and the actual already notorious perversions of these powers, together with the too frequently objectionable manner in which inquests are conducted; Because of the unlimited*



number of coroners possible under the law; the too great number already appointed; and the ease with which appointments are obtained; *Because* of the unfitness of a large proportion of those now holding the office of coroner and the scandalous misdeeds of too many of them; *Because*, however unfit or however corrupt a coroner may be, there is no redress practicable, nor removal from office, except through a very tedious process — 'an address of both houses of the Legislature to the Governor' — a process too complicated ever to be resorted to; *Because* the system is a very expensive one; even when an inquest is unexceptionably made, it is absolutely useless as an aid to justice; and what is still worse, may in fact favor the escape of the guilty; *Because* the system, as at present conducted, has few if any redeeming qualities, — though a tythe of its defects and possible enormities cannot here be mentioned or even alluded to.

In so far there seems to be a pretty general agreement in this state and elsewhere, among those who have investigated the matter, and especially in the two professions most directly interested therein.

The committee also find that 'these defects involve the Medical Profession' inasmuch as many medical men have been appointed coroners and inasmuch as some of those who have disgraced the office have claimed to belong to the medical profession, for, although the latter may not have been members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, they, by their assumptions, have brought discredit upon all regular practitioners in a too indiscriminating community.

The committee also find that in cases of sudden unaccounted for or unnatural deaths — the chief business of coroners — 'what caused the death', 'who caused the death' are two separate and independent questions, the former belonging to the medical profession to inquire into and to solve, the latter to the magistrate and the courts. Therefore the committee are of opinion that a division of the coroner's duties should be made — that the inspection of the body, the autopsy and the inquiry into the cause of death should be given to the medical profession, while the necessity for a further inquest and its conduct, when decided upon, should be committed to the legal profession with its detectives and courts, — and that each department should be separately held responsible for the proper performance of its own peculiar duties and those only.

The committee further find that such a plan, recently more fully developed by Mr. Tyndale, a lawyer of Boston, is considered perfectly practicable, to be less complicated than the present methods, to be more economical and more conducive to the ends of justice, — that, under such a plan, instead of forty-three coroners (the present number for the City of Boston alone) two or three medical officers such as suggested (with a like proportion throughout the state) would be amply sufficient; while the present courts and officers attached need not be enlarged, we are told, to do once for all a work which they now have to do over again *ab initio* after the coroner has finished his useless task. Well selected, say by the Governor and Council from the most eminent and best qualified medical men and with fixed and sufficient salaries, these officials would soon rescue the office from its present contempt and raise it to its proper and intended dignity; — and, what is the all-essential, secure the public safety without needlessly distressing the innocent and unoffending. Such medical

offices, like judgeships, should be held during good behavior, — the incumbents being removable for cause only, by the appointing power.

In view of the foregoing facts and considerations the committee recommend the passage of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society to co-operate with committees of other societies or associations and persons engaged in obtaining a reform in the laws pertaining to coroners, — to go before the Legislature or other officials, if deemed by them necessary or advisable, — to have a general charge of the matter in behalf of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the regular profession of medicine, — and to report progress from time to time to the councillors."

(Signed by all the members of the committee)

(Dated February 7, 1877.)

The same committee was appointed as before, except that the number was increased to six, the president, Dr. Cogswell, being the sixth member and the chairman of the new committee. They reported at the very next meeting of the council, namely, on June 12, 1877, that

"the cause they were sent forth to advocate has met with speedy and remarkable success. That the Governor of the state [Alexander H. Rice] having brought the subject before the Legislature in his message, it was referred to the committee on the judiciary, a joint committee of both houses; — the members of your committee having been called before this legislative committee, then and there in several meetings, submitted the several points, as instructed by the councillors, and urged the absolute necessity of the proposed changes in the laws. That your committee co-operated with a committee of the Social Science Association with whom they held frequent and satisfactory meetings. That, in connection with the committee of the Social Science Association, your committee met and had interviews with legal gentlemen and legislators, and with such, further assisted in drawing up the act which finally became the present law. That, in progress they had the ready and sympathetic assistance of the legal profession, the Governor, members of the Legislature and gentlemen of influence in the community. That your committee brought to bear whatever personal influence they had or could obtain upon individual members of the Legislature and labored assiduously in making known to them the public good expected in the changes proposed, and That, to the exceeding satisfaction of your committee and of all the gentlemen with whom they were associated or were in any way connected in the matter, a new law has been passed (a copy of which is hereunto appended) by which the community will be greatly benefitted, the dignity of the profession sustained and the furtherance of justice promoted. By it the duties of the two professions while kept distinct, will be brought into united and effective action; a prosecuting officer being instituted where none previously existed, the results of an inquest will not be useless as heretofore.

In all their doings as above indicated your committee have earnestly endeavored, one and all, to carry out the instructions of the councillors in spirit





and to the letter and to secure for the profession its elevated and proper position. As by the terms of their appointment they may appear to be a 'standing committee', should their present report prove acceptable to the councillors they respectfully ask to be discharged from further service in the matter."

(The report was signed by all six members. It was accepted.)

(Dated June 12, 1877.)

The act, called House No. 341, passed by the House on April 23, 1877, concurred in by the Senate and approved by the Governor, May 9, 1877, is called "An act to abolish the office of coroner and to provide for medical examinations and inquests in cases of death by violence." It was of twenty-five sections. It has stood the test of time and is today working well for the interests of the public. Dr. Frank Winthrop Draper was the first appointee under the act as medical examiner for the large Suffolk District. He established the law on its new foundations, holding office for twenty-eight years, investigating over eight thousand deaths and performing more than three thousand autopsies. He summarized his matchless experience in a "Text Book of Legal Medicine," published in 1905, besides putting on record many invaluable cases in the medical journals of the day and imparting his knowledge to a generation of medical students at Harvard Medical School from 1878 to 1903 as professor of legal medicine.

This was an instance of a beneficial act placed on the statute book by the direct agency of the Massachusetts Medical Society, if we may believe the testimony of the documents in our files. The combination of circumstances was favorable and the agents of the society used discretion and judgment in advancing the principles they thought important before the committee of the legislature.

At the annual meeting of the society in 1873 Dr. Frederic Winsor of Winchester read a paper on "The Duties of Physicians to Nurses." At its close Dr. H. I. Bowditch made commendatory remarks on the paper and offered the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That a committee of nine be appointed to urge upon the great hospitals of Massachusetts the importance of establishing, in connection with these institutions, schools for nurses similar to that now sustained by St. George's Hospital in London, and, more recently, by similar institutions in New York."

The resolution was adopted and this committee appointed to carry out its provisions: Drs. Winsor of Winchester, Bowditch of Boston, Wheeler of Chelsea, Peirson of Salem, Fisk of Northamp-



ton, Gage of Worcester, Holmes of Milton, Nickerson of Lowell and Stone of Wellfleet.

If this committee made a report it was not recorded. We know that Susan Dimock had established the first training school for nurses at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury the year previous. The Massachusetts General Hospital began a training school not long after and the Boston City Hospital in 1878. Others followed in the next decade. What influence the committee of the society had in establishing them is not manifest.

A happening of the year 1874 was the beginning of a new sort of nominating committee, whose duty it was to nominate officers, orator, anniversary chairman and committees at the annual meeting of the council, the committee for the first time being elected by the different district societies. In the early days of the society, following the reorganization of 1803, the records said that scrutineers were appointed to collect, sort and count the ballots. These scrutineers were appointed by the president. Presumably the nominations were made from the floor. Since the society had put into operation in 1849-1850 the plan of electing the councilors by the district societies it followed as a corollary that the nominating committee should be chosen by the districts and we find in the record of the meeting of the council of May 27, 1851, this memorandum:

"On motion made by Dr. Charles Gordon, it was *Voted*, That a Committee of Nomination be appointed, consisting of a member from each district represented at the meeting, to be selected by the President, who should present a list of officers to be acted upon by the Counsellors."

At this meeting an informal vote for president was taken by the council and given to the nominating committee "as a guide to them in their selection," as the record states. It was at this time that on motion by Dr. Bowditch it was voted that the names of the councilors present at each meeting be recorded. This has been done ever since. In 1853 a committee was appointed by the council to nominate a list of officers. In later time it is not clear from the records how the nominating committee was formed, except that the districts represented by councilors present, were represented on the nominating committee. Sometimes the chair appointed the committee, as he did in 1860; in 1863 he appointed the standing committees, except the committee of arrangements, which was nominated by the nominating committee together with the

officers, orator and anniversary chairman. The next year the committee of arrangements was appointed by the president. In 1870 the president appointed a nominating committee of one from each district, that nominated officers, orator, anniversary chairman and committee of arrangements. In the minutes of the meeting of February 4, 1874, is this entry:

"Dr. D. H. Storer moved the adoption of the following resolution, and it was adopted: *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of each District Medical Society, at its meeting next preceding the Annual Meeting of the State Society, to select one of its Councillors as its representative in the Nominating Committee for the officers of said State Society; and in case of neglect of any District Society in the performance of such duty, the selection shall devolve on its Councillors who shall be present at such Annual Meeting."

Since that time the nominating committees have been so elected by the districts, and of recent years each district has specified another of its councilors as an alternate, in case the principal is not present. There are from thirteen to fifteen nominating councilors present at every annual meeting, out of a possible total of eighteen, so that at the present time a major portion of the state has representation on the committee which selects the officers and the orator.

The question of the safe keeping of the records and manuscripts of the society came up at the June meeting of the council in 1874, Dr. H. I. Bowditch reporting for a special committee which had been appointed to consider this subject at the last meeting. On motion by Dr. Millet of Bridgewater it was

"*Voted*, That the Recording Secretary be directed to deposit the manuscript records of the Society in some place of security."

The society had concurred with the council vote of 1872 at this annual meeting transferring the books and printed publications of the society to the Boston Public Library, as explained in the chapter on the Library. It remained to provide for the manuscript records. The recording secretary announced at the succeeding meeting of the council, in October, 1874, that he had effected an arrangement by which the society's manuscript records were placed in the fire-proof building of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. There they stayed until the society had moved its headquarters to the rooms of the Boston Medical Library Association, 19 Boylston Place, in 1879. The treasurer's report for 1880 says that a

"fire-proof safe of approved pattern was purchased in July, 1879, for the preservation of the manuscript records of the society; by the courtesy of the executive officers of the Boston Medical Library Association, the safe has been placed in the basement of the Library building . . . the many valuable manuscripts accumulated during the society's century of existence, are now securely defended from injury."

This safe was transferred to the present building of the Boston Medical Library at 8 The Fenway in 1901 and is now in the vault in the basement that is reserved for the society.

In the last chapter we had left the society meeting in the hall of the Lowell Institute, in the rear of No. 233 Washington Street, and the council in a room in Phillips Place, opposite King's Chapel, where the library was kept in the year 1853. No change in meeting place of the council was made until February, 1856, when that body had its first session in its new room in the Perkins Building, No. 12 Temple Place. This was on the north side of the street near the Tremont Street end, although at this time the street was still a "place," not having been extended to Washington Street until 1864. The society met in the hall of the Lowell Institute whenever the meetings were held in Boston. In 1851 the annual meeting was in Worcester; in 1852 in Pittsfield; in 1854 in Fitchburg; in 1857 in New Bedford, and finally the last meeting outside the capital, in Pittsfield in 1863. Several of the adjourned meetings of the society, relatively frequent in those days, were held during the fifties in the council rooms. The society met in the hall of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association on Bedford Street in 1862 and in 1864, the meetings being held in the so-called "Common Council Chamber." The building stood at the corner of Bedford and Chauncy Streets. Next to it was the Second Church in Boston, the building which was afterwards removed to Copley Square, where it remained for many years next to Chauncy Hall School, on the north side of the square.

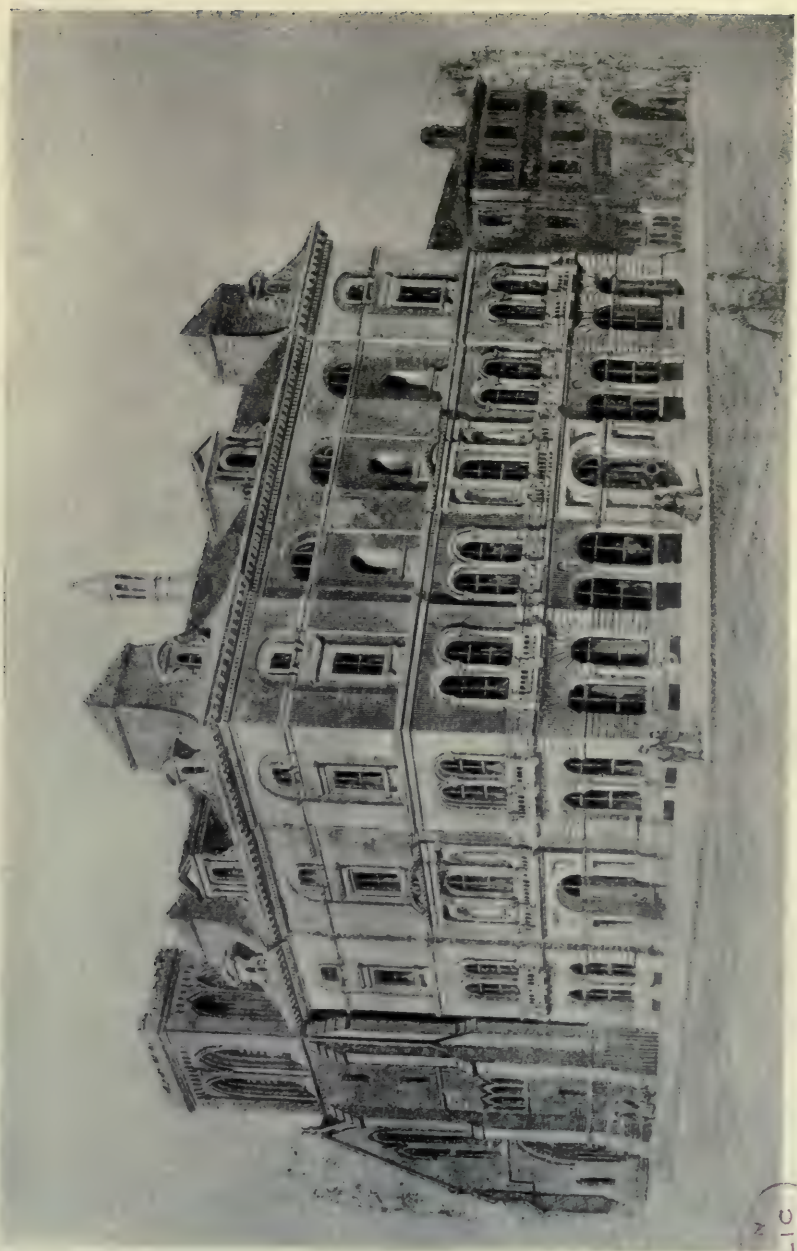
After a meeting held in the Lowell Institute hall in 1866 — this, by the way, being the first two-day meeting that was held, — the society met again in the quarters of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association, in 1867, and then in 1868, in the new operating theater of the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1869 it went to Bumstead Hall, under Music Hall, in Music Hall Place, off Winter Street; in 1870 to Horticultural Hall, on Tremont Street, between Bromfield and Bosworth. Some confusion has arisen be-



BUILDING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANICS ASSOCIATION, BEDFORD AND CHAUNCEY STREETS  
The Second Church, later removed to Copley Square, is shown at the left.

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cause the printed records of the meetings of the council state that that body had two meetings in the year 1869 in "Avon Street." The meetings were held as usual in the room at 12 Temple Place. For the brief space between March 30 and June 9, in that year, the "place" was named "Avon Street," for Temple Place and Avon Place formed a continuous street from Tremont to Chauncy. The name "Temple Place" was restored June 9, 1869 and has remained until the present.

The council removed its headquarters to 36 Temple Place, February 2, 1870. This was the former residence of Thomas Handasyd Perkins, being occupied in 1870 by the Provident Institution for Savings in the Town of Boston, as it is today. Additional room was rented. The council remained here for nine years while the society met in the hall of the Lowell Institute from 1871 to 1879. The meetings of 1880, 1881 and 1882 were in Horticultural Hall again.

The centennial anniversary of the society was observed on June 7 and 8, 1881. It began with visits of the fellows to the various departments of Harvard College, at Cambridge and to the Abattoir at Brighton at 9 A.M., Tuesday, June 7. At 11 o'clock Dr. Samuel Abbott Green of Boston delivered the centennial address, "The History of Medicine in Massachusetts" in Sanders Theater, Cambridge. This address when printed occupies 130 pages. Most of the space is given to an account of primitive medical practice in colony times, a most entertaining review of old documents in the state archives and the files of the Massachusetts Historical Society, of which Dr. Green was secretary, stories of inoculation and vaccination and the early years of the Massachusetts Medical Society, both before and after the reorganization in 1803. The address closed with some remarks on the Massachusetts physicians in the Civil War and the statement that the society

"is the oldest state organization in the country, of a similar character, that has held its meetings continuously and regularly from the date of its incorporation",

referring to the two periods in the history of the older New Jersey Medical Society — founded in 1766, — 1775 to 1781 and 1795 to 1807 — when no meetings were held. At the close of the address the fellows took luncheon in Memorial Hall, at the invitation of the President and Fellows of Harvard College. President Charles W. Eliot welcomed the Society on behalf of the college while the presi-



dent of the society, Henry W. Williams responded for the society. After the luncheon the fellows embarked at Rowe's Wharf, Boston, for an excursion in the harbor by invitation of the Boston fellows. In the evening there was a reception to the members and ladies at the Art Museum in Copley Square and later in the evening the president of the society entertained them at his house at No. 15 Arlington Street, overlooking the Public Garden, where, on other occasions, he had received the council with good cheer.

On the second day, Wednesday, June 8, in the morning, the various hospitals, medical museums, Institute of Technology, Trinity Church, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Natural History Museum were open for inspection while lower Horticultural Hall was given up to a comparative and historical exhibition of instruments, apparatus, books, and medicines, supervised by a committee of the fellows. The customary exercises of the annual meeting were held in Horticultural Hall at eleven o'clock, delegates from Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania were introduced by the president; Dr. J. Collins Warren of Boston gave the annual discourse on the topic: Medical Societies — their "Organization and the Nature of their Work," an interesting paper which well repays perusal today.

The dinner at one o'clock in Music Hall, Winter Street, was the crowning celebration of the anniversary. Dr. James C. White, the dermatologist, was anniversary chairman; places were laid for a thousand diners; at the head table were Governor John D. Long, President Henry W. Williams, the ophthalmologist, President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard, Dr. S. D. Gross of Philadelphia, Judge E. Rockwood Hoar, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Rev. Phillips Brooks, Mr. Harrison of Liverpool, England, Dr. Abraham Jacobi of New York, Rev. George E. Ellis, Mr. Alexander Agassiz, Sir William H. Hingston of Montreal, Canada, Surgeon General Dale, Dr. S. A. Green, Dr. J. Collins Warren, Dr. H. I. Bowditch and representatives of the neighboring state medical societies. The blessing was asked by the Rev. Phillips Brooks and speeches were made by J. C. White, H. W. Williams, His Excellency Governor Long, President Eliot and Judge Hoar. Then Dr. Holmes read his poem in praise of the physician which caused much comment at the time especially from the legal profession. His lines beginning:

“ Strong is the moral blister that will draw  
Laid on the conscience of the man of law  
Whom blindfold Justice lends her eyes to see  
Truth in the scale that holds his promised fee.”

caused many an eyebrow to be raised.

Fortunately Judge Hoar had preceded Dr. Holmes, for according to report, he was stirred to reply to the Doctor in defence of his profession. He had the ability to say something forceful and to the point that might not have promoted harmony. The poem had begun with these lines as the poet considered the trials of the three professions:

“ Three paths there be where Learning’s favored sons,  
Trained in the schools which hold her favored ones,  
Follow their several stars with separate aim;  
Each has its honors, each its special claim,  
First, as of oldest lineage, comes the Priest;  
The Lawyer next, in wordy conflict strong,  
Full armed to battle for the right, — or wrong;  
Last, he whose calling finds its voice in deeds,  
Frail Nature’s helper in her sharpest needs.”

Dr. Holmes was followed by an eloquent speech by Phillips Brooks and by addresses by Dr. Gross and by the Rev. Mr. Ellis, who brought the greetings from the medical profession of Philadelphia and from the Massachusetts Historical Society respectively. The occasion was a notable one; the speakers the eminent men of the time; the State, the University, Divinity, Law, History, Poetry and Science being represented by scholarly orations and a poem. Dr. White offered the following sentiment at the request of Dr. Willard Parker of New York, who was unable to be present: “The Massachusetts Medical Society. As years roll on, may she ever unite with the wisdom and experience of age, the vigor and efficiency of youth.” Judge Hoar said in part:

“Your claim to public confidence and gratitude rests, as it seems to me, upon many substantial grounds, of which I will enumerate these: 1. In the first place, your society has been the barrier of this community against those whom Sir Thomas Browne quaintly describes as ‘Saltinbancoes, quacksalvers and charlatans, whose impostures are full of cruelty and worse than any other, deluding not only unto pecuniary defraudations, but the irreparable deceit of death.’ 2. Again, it has done a great service to its members by substituting to so great an extent a just pride in an honorable profession for those miserable rivalries and little personal jealousies, to which, from their isolated positions, doctors in former times have been thought to be more exposed than others of

liberal culture. 3. Thirdly, it has benefited its members and the community alike by steadily raising the standard of professional accomplishments and requirements. 4. In the fourth place, it has encouraged sincerity and directness and put an end to much of that ancient pretence of which Lord Bacon tells us, in his essay 'Of Seeming Wise,'—of men who 'When they know within themselves that they speak of that they do not well know, would nevertheless seem to others to know that of which they may not well speak.'"

This quotation from the speech of Dr. Williams, an eloquent, forceful and persuasive speaker, may close this account of the celebration of the hundredth anniversary:

"CHANGELESS THROUGH EVERY CHANGE, STEADILY AUGMENTING ITS NUMBERS AND USEFULNESS, OUR SOCIETY, WHICH FOR A HUNDRED YEARS HAS BEEN THE EMBODIMENT OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND MEDICAL PROGRESS, WELL DESERVES TO BE CHERISHED AND DEFENDED."

## BIOGRAPHIES

HENRY INGERSOLL BOWDITCH<sup>1</sup> (1808–1892), chairman of the first Massachusetts State Board of Health, pioneer specialist in diseases of the chest, introducer of paracentesis thoracis, was the third son of the celebrated mathematician, Nathaniel Bowditch, and of Mary Ingersoll, his wife. He was born in Salem, Massachusetts, August 9, 1808, his early life being spent in Salem; but in 1823 his father moved to Boston, which became his permanent home.

He graduated from Harvard College in the Class of 1828, and subsequently began his medical studies in the Harvard Medical School, receiving an A.M. and M.D. in 1832. Later he was house officer in the Massachusetts General Hospital under the tutelage of his revered master, Dr. James Jackson, for whose character and skill he always felt the deepest reverence. In 1832 he went abroad to study in Paris, and was fortunate in becoming associated with the great Louis. For the better part of two years he was under the latter's guidance in the hospital of *La Pitié* in the *Quartier Latin*. With Louis, he became deeply interested in the teachings of Laennec in examinations of the chest by auscultation and percussion.

Previous to his return to Boston in 1834, he visited the hospitals of Great Britain but found always his chief inspiration in Paris under the men who at that time were leaders in the medical world, the palm always being given by him and others to Louis.

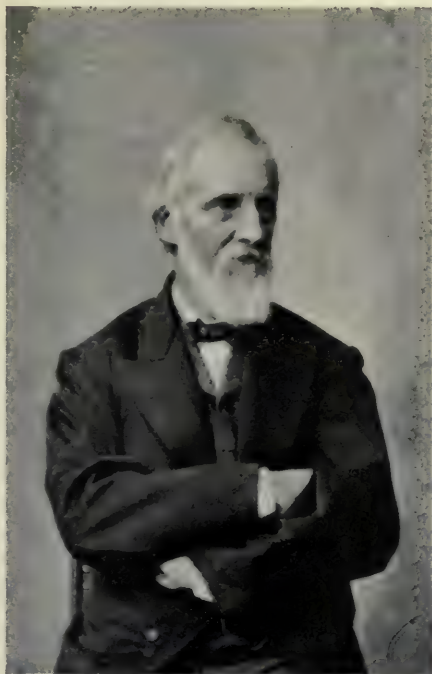
After his return to Boston he began practice in general medicine, although he never practised surgery. During the early years he wrote and published "The Young Stethoscopist," a little book even now often referred to as containing most valuable instruction in the art of auscultation and percussion of the chest.

In 1835, when he had become a member of the Massachusetts Medical

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviated from Dr. Vincent Y. Bowditch's biography of his father, prepared for "American Medical Biographies."





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Society, he founded with Dr. John Ware the Boston Society of Medical Observation, a similar organization to that under the leadership of Louis in Paris. It existed as a student society for two years when it was discontinued, then revived again by Dr. Bowditch and seven others, the organization being merged many years afterwards into the Boston Society for Medical Improvement. From the Society for Medical Observation, the Boston Medical Library Association took its birth, the first meeting of the association being held in Dr. Bowditch's office, December 21, 1874, six gentlemen being present. In 1878 he made an address at the dedication of the Library in Boylston Place and took the keenest interest in its growth from that time.

His numerous journals, extracts from which were published by his son in 1902 in the "Life and Correspondence of Henry Ingersoll Bowditch," give vivid proof of Dr. Bowditch's active part in what he used to call the "Thirty Years' War of Antislavery." They form deeply interesting records of the history of that great movement in the United States.

In 1838 Dr. Bowditch was married to Miss Olivia Yardley of London, England, whom he had first met in Paris six years before, and to whom he had become deeply attached. It was a perfect union which lasted up to her death, fifty-two years later. They had four children.

Notwithstanding the calls upon his time for antislavery work, he was always interested in his researches in medicine. His work on the ova of the lymnea (common snails) was an illustration of his great attention to detail in any scientific work. Under the microscope, he, for months, daily watched the development of the ova, and with the help of his wife succeeded in illustrating by exquisite drawings the growth of the snail from its earliest stages. This work is a classic which has been often referred to by eminent men in recent times.

Early in practice he was convinced of the lack of proper treatment for pleuritic effusions, and he watched with deepest regret the death of many a patient from the lack of what he then believed to be the proper surgical procedure in cases of large effusions which gave rise to great dyspnea and often death from suffocation. Opening of the chest wall by surgical incision had been occasionally practised at rare intervals in former years, but only in cases of apparent chronic pleurisy. Shrinking from any form of surgery, for which he felt he had no talent, he nevertheless urged surgeons to relieve patients by removal of fluid in acute pleuritic effusions; but in this idea he was strenuously opposed by men of highest reputation, even surgeons. His revered master, Dr. Jackson, told him it was too dangerous, and that absorption by nature's method was the only proper way of removing fluid. One surgeon went so far as to say he "would as soon shoot a bullet into the chest wall" as to follow Dr. Bowditch's suggestion. Convinced of the correctness of his own view, however, Dr. Bowditch persisted, and finally was rewarded by seeing an instrument devised by Dr. Morrill Wyman, of Cambridge, Mass., who had used successfully a trocar and cannula connected with a suction pump on a case in which Dr. Bowditch had been called in consultation, April 17, 1850. Dr. Bowditch's first paper "On Pleuritic Effusions, and the Necessity of Paracentesis for their Removal" was read before the Boston Society for Medical Observation, Oct. 20, 1851, and published in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, April, 1852. He believed that at last the proper instrument had been found, and from that



time proceeded to use the method in suitable cases successfully and in spite of great opposition at first. During the following ten years, Dr. Bowditch operated in several hundred cases without a single death and with infinite relief to the patients as a rule. He had advised a slight modification of Dr. Wyman's suction pump, which he always used. Dr. Bowditch in all of his papers spoke of his debt to Dr. Wyman, who invented the original instrument, but the long and exhaustive study of cases and the successful result of introducing to the medical world the now well-known operation of thoracentesis was due to Dr. Bowditch's persistent effort to compel the profession to adopt this method of treatment.

At the same period, Dr. Bowditch was making careful investigations also as to the probable causative factors of phthisis pulmonalis ("Consumption"), now usually termed pulmonary tuberculosis. For eight years he pursued his investigations by letters written to physicians throughout the state asking for data in regard to the prevalence of consumption in their localities, and the situation of homes in which the disease was most common. The result of these investigations seemed to prove the fact that residence upon a damp soil is a potent factor in the propagation of the disease. The discovery twenty years later of the bacillus tuberculosis by Koch seems in no way to weaken the theory that high dry soil is less prone to the prevalence of tuberculosis than situations in low swampy lands. As orator at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1862, he presented the paper entitled "Topographical Distribution and Local Origin of Consumption in Massachusetts." This address was received with acclamation by the society and was subsequently distributed in pamphlet form throughout the state.

Dr. Bowditch took the keenest interest in the Massachusetts Medical Society and held important positions: recording secretary 1849 to 1851, corresponding secretary from 1851 to 1854. He attended meetings with marked regularity from 1847 to 1887 when failing health compelled him to cease his attendance. From the time that the subject was first introduced in June, 1867, he advocated strongly the admission of women to the society and afterwards he was chairman of a committee on this subject. He was especially active in matters pertaining to public health projects and the bettering of vital statistics. From 1859 to 1867 he held the position of Jackson Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Harvard Medical School. During his professional career he was at first connected with the Massachusetts General Hospital and afterwards with the Boston City Hospital, and the Carney Hospital in South Boston as attending physician.

Deeply interested in all sanitary matters, Dr. Bowditch was appointed in 1869 by the Governor of Massachusetts, with six others, to form a State Board of Health, the first in the United States; and as chairman of the board he gave much time and thought to this work, without salary, for ten years, until with false notions of economy the Governor then in office combined the Boards of Health, Lunacy, and Charity in 1879. The result of this action was such as to destroy all efficiency of work. After a few months of ineffectual attempts to make the Governor change the policy, Dr. Bowditch with deepest regret resigned from the Board.

During his term of service, in 1871, he issued another work, entitled, "Intemperance in New England and How Shall We Prevent It?" This paper was

again the result of several years' investigation of the customs in different countries of the world, as to the use of light wines, beer, and liquors. Basing his opinion upon the replies received from innumerable sources, he declared that the use of light wines and beer in moderation was not seriously detrimental, and that total prohibition was not advisable, even going so far as to say that it would be well to advocate the substitution of beer and light wines for liquors, inasmuch as a natural craving for stimulant among human beings would be thus met without serious detriment to health. His position on this matter at the time brought forth a torrent of abuse from Prohibitionists, one popular preacher going so far as to announce a lecture entitled, "Dr. Bowditch and Free Rum!" an amusing episode to all who knew him upon whom the attack was launched!

In 1874 he published another article for the fifth annual report, entitled, "Preventive Medicine and the Physicians of the Future." After an extensive review of the grand scope of preventive medicine, he finally gives his reasons for placing before the public a brief history of events relative to the subject in Massachusetts.

In 1876, at a meeting of the International Medical Congress in Philadelphia, he gave an address called, "State Medicine and Public Hygiene in America," an exhaustive study of the conditions existing then in the United States, and a discouraging but at the same time stimulating account of the wretched lack of hygienic methods in the country, with suggestions as to what could be done to improve them. This address marked an epoch in the history of hygiene in the United States, and was received with enthusiasm by the Association. At the request of its members, copies of the address were sent broadcast to the various state legislatures and Governors throughout this country and Canada.

He continued the practice of his profession as a specialist in diseases of the chest until within two or three years of his death. The last paper he ever read was at the meeting of the American Climatological Association in Boston in 1889. In this brilliant and picturesque article entitled "Open-Air Travel as a Cure for Consumption," he gave the history of his own father, who, in 1808, at the age of thirty-five, began to have severe hemorrhages and other symptoms of incipient pulmonary tuberculosis, and adopted as his first means of cure, after the early active symptoms had ceased, a drive lasting several weeks through towns of New England in an open buggy with a friend, the subsequent history being one of entire recovery following change in his methods of life. After his death, at the age of sixty-seven, from cancer of the stomach, the healed lesion of the lung was found at autopsy. This article can be regarded almost as a classic in its concrete exposition of the value of hygienic treatment of tuberculosis in a manner little known or understood in those earlier days of New England life.

No biography however short would be complete without allusion to Dr. Bowditch's deeply religious nature. Although devoted to scientific truth, he never swerved from his religious faith which seemed to pervade every action of his life. Although early in life he passed through years of doubt and perplexity in matters relating to forms of religious expression, he came in later years to a serenity of mind on such subjects that never failed. Although a Unitarian in his final beliefs, his breadth of wisdom and tolerance of other views were marked features of his character. Just so long as the expression of any belief



was thought by him to be sincere, he gave it that respect which he felt was due to the opinions of others even if they differed wholly from his own. He saw beauty in every form of religious thought while adhering to that which appealed most strongly to him. This breadth of judgment extended to his professional work, and especially to his intercourse with his younger associates who freely turned to him for counsel and advice.

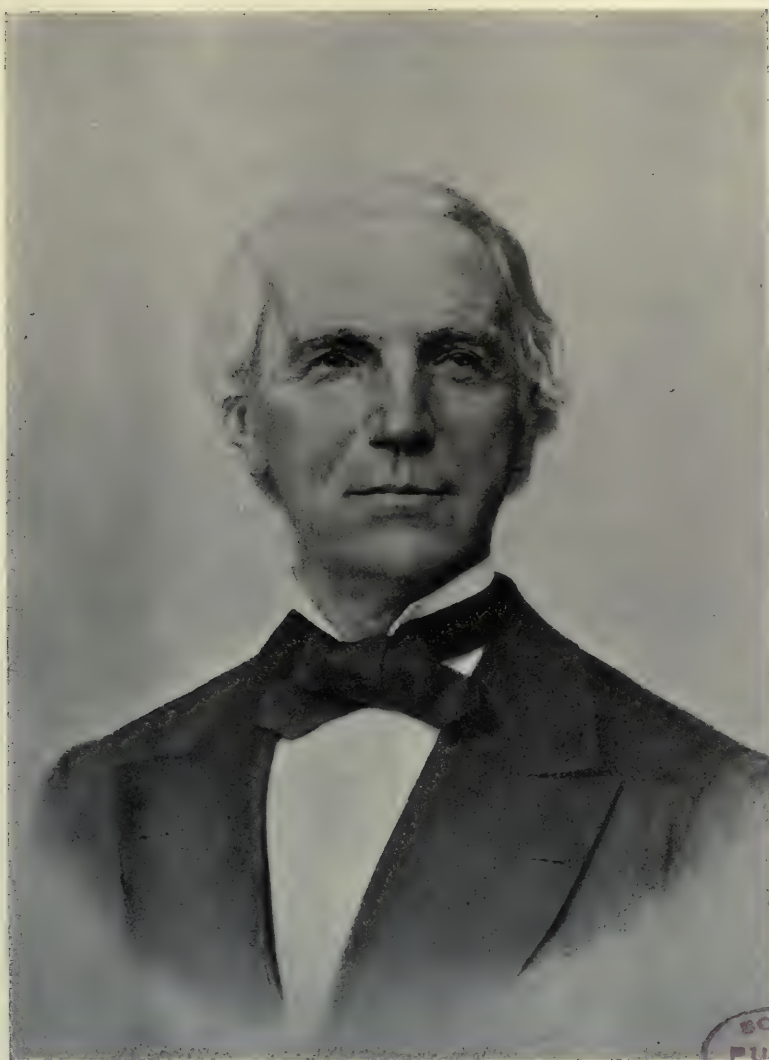
A free and general culture he always strongly advocated to his students as the best means of avoiding the danger of becoming "men of one idea" with consequent detriment to their professional work. He believed in travel and the consequent humanizing effect of the study of men and manners other than our own. His enthusiasm for life extended to his latest years in spite of increasing infirmities and weakness towards the end. The death of his wife, after fifty-two years of an ideally happy union, marked the beginning of the end. Thirteen months later, on January 14, 1892, he died, at the age of eighty-three.

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BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING (1812-1897), general practitioner and promoter of The Massachusetts Medical Society, was born at Arlington, Massachusetts, November 2, 1812. His education was obtained at Harvard, where he took his A. B. at the age of twenty-two, and A. M. and M. D. three years later, in 1837, being a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Settling in Boston he struggled along as a poor but busy practitioner for four years when he was brought into contact with the Lowell family and through their influence was made curator of the Lowell Institute for Free Public Lectures. This position he held for fifty-five years and thus met the eminent men of the world of letters who came to Boston to lecture. Besides this important influence on his life he was enabled to make favorable investments in the valuable mill stocks of that period, so that in later life he was comfortably situated financially and could establish the Cotting Fund for the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1876, the income being used to provide a luncheon at the meetings of the Council of that body, also to endow the Cotting Fund in the Harvard Medical School in 1890. Dr. Cotting settled permanently in Roxbury, a part of Boston after 1868, and there built up a very large practice, boasting that on one occasion he made as many as forty-three visits in one day from early morning to late at night and on another attending four births in different parts of the town in twelve hours. His modest cottage was the meeting place of many noted men. Scholarly, witty, skeptical, Dr. Cotting was at his best when surrounded by his friends in his home.

He was a founder of the Obstetrical Society of Boston in 1861 and of the Roxbury Medical Improvement Society in 1866. One of the chief interests of his life was the Massachusetts Medical Society and we note that he was recording secretary, 1855-1857, corresponding secretary, 1857-1864, orator, 1865, vice-president, 1872-1874, and president, 1874-1876. It was said of him that the society was his very religion. In seconding a motion in the Council, February 2, 1898, to accept a portrait of Dr. Cotting and place it in the Supper Room of the Boston Medical Library, where the Cotting Lunches were given, Dr. D. W. Cheever said that Dr. Cotting might be regarded as the father of the Massachusetts Medical Society during the latter half of the nineteenth century.





BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING





With several others Dr. Cotting purchased the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* when it was in a decadent condition and was at one time its editor; he was consulting physician to the Boston City Hospital, founded in 1864, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a trustee of the Boston Latin School. In later years he enjoyed the rôle of being a father in medicine to the young practitioner and all his life he exalted friendship. Of short stature he had a spare frame and the fine face of a sensitive gentleman. His everyday ministerial frock coat made him a marked figure in his community. He died at his home in Roxbury, May 22, 1897, at the age of eighty-four.

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GEORGE CHEYNE SHATTUCK (1813-1893), the younger, differentiator of typhus and typhoid fever, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 22, 1813, the son of Dr. George Cheyne and Eliza Cheever Davis Shattuck, and grandson, on his mother's side, of the Hon. Caleb Davis, all of Boston.

His early education was obtained at the Boston Latin School and at the famous "Round Hill School" at Northampton, Massachusetts. It was there, probably, that the interest in educational matters began which led him in later life to found St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. In his early life his love of study was, perhaps, over-stimulated by his father, so that he was inclined to work beyond the strength of a not too rugged constitution. He received his A. B. from Harvard College in 1831, and after spending a year at the Harvard Law School he entered the Harvard Medical School, took his M. D. in 1835 and then went abroad for study. In common with his friends, Bowditch, Stillé and Metcalfe, he was much influenced by the methods, the teaching and personality of Louis, with whom he kept up an intimacy until the latter's death forty years later. Shattuck and Stillé read papers before the Paris Society for Medical Observation, in 1838, that served to mark out the distinction between typhus and typhoid fevers.

On April 9, 1840, having settled to practise in Boston, he married Anne Henrietta Brune of Baltimore.

For nearly twenty years he was a professor in the Harvard Medical School; from 1855 to 1859 professor of clinical medicine, and from 1859 to 1873 professor of the theory and practice of medicine. In 1849 he succeeded Oliver Wendell Holmes as visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital and served in this capacity for thirty-six years. He was president of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1872 to 1874, and served it on important committees, and he was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He died March 22, 1893, being survived by a daughter and two sons, one of the latter being Frederick Cheever Shattuck, who became professor of clinical medicine in the Harvard Medical School, and the other George Brune Shattuck, editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for thirty years. An oil painting of Dr. Shattuck is in the Boston Medical Library.

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HENRY WILLARD WILLIAMS<sup>1</sup> (1821-1895), was born in Boston, December 11, 1821, and after a Latin School education, entered a counting-

<sup>1</sup> From Harry Friedenwald's biography in "American Medical Biographies."



room, later becoming secretary and publishing agent of the Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society. At the same time he began to study medicine at Harvard in 1844, afterwards spending three years in Europe. Besides his general medical and surgical studies he became greatly interested in ophthalmology, studying under Sichel and Desmarres in Paris, Friedrich and Rosas in Vienna, and Dalrymple, Lawrence and Dixon in London. He then returned to America and graduated M. D. at Harvard in 1849. From 1850 to 1855 he was instructor in the theory and practice of medicine in the Boylston Medical School, and in 1850 organized a class of Harvard students for the study of eye disease and after a few years of general practice, limited himself to ophthalmic work. He was ophthalmic surgeon to the Boston City Hospital from the founding of the hospital in 1864, to 1891. He was one of the first to introduce etherization in cataract operations (1853) and the suturing of the flap (1865). In 1856 he read a most important paper "On the Treatment of Iritis without Mercury." His first literary work was a translation of Sichel's "Spectacles: Their Uses and Abuses in Long and Shortsightedness" (1850). In 1862 his "Practical Guide to the Study of the Diseases of the Eye" appeared, and in 1865 his essay, "Recent Advances in Ophthalmic Science," won the Boylston prize. In 1881 his most important work appeared, "The Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Eye" (second edition, 1886). These works presented the science and practice of ophthalmology in the clearest manner and in accordance with the most advanced thought of the day, and their popularity was attested by the demand for new editions.

His greatest influence was exercised as a teacher and lecturer (1869) and later (1871) as professor of ophthalmology in Harvard Medical School, also in the medical societies in which he took an active and leading part, being president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, 1880-1882, and of the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society from 1871 to 1894. He was an excellent presiding officer.

He impressed his strong personality on his medical brethren, as he lived and worked largely for them. He was, all in all, a doctor first, and other things afterwards. . . .

Of large stature and strong character he was a conspicuous figure on all medical occasions and proved a frequent, forcible and persuasive speaker. Conservative to a fault, he was yet kindly and thoughtful of his professional brothers. He did not grow old, but retained his enthusiasm to a remarkable degree.

In 1864 he was one of those who founded the American Ophthalmological Society, and was for many years its president. On retiring in 1891 from the chair of ophthalmology, on account of ill health, he endowed the professorship. His sons, Charles and Edward, followed their father as ophthalmologists; another son, Francis Henry, likewise became a physician.

Dr. Williams died in Boston June 13, 1895.

LIBRARY

## CHAPTER V

### THE LAST TWENTY YEARS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY 1881-1900

#### FROM THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY TO THE MOVE TO No. 8 THE FENWAY

FROM the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary to the time of moving the headquarters from the old home of the Boston Medical Library in Boylston Place to the beautiful new building of that organization in the Fenway, namely, in January, 1901, was a period of many important advances in the activities of the Massachusetts Medical Society. The chief topics that challenge our attention during this time were: the work of the society in perfecting the law of the state as to the commitment of the insane; the establishment of a board of supervising censors and a consequent uniformity in the examinations of candidates for membership; the adoption of a code of ethics; the reorganization of the state board of health; the Shattuck Lectureship ordered and begun under the Shattuck bequest; the beginning of the standing committees on medical diplomas, and state and national legislation; the drafting of the bill for the board of registration in medicine, the first law of its kind in Massachusetts; a new digest of the laws of the state regarding the society, prepared by legal counsel; sections established at the annual meetings for the consideration of the different branches of medical science, together with many matters of less importance, such as action concerning the care of adult epileptics by the state; the publications given to the Boston Medical Library provided they be accessible to the fellows; a long contest by the Boston College of Physicians and Surgeons for recognition; district reporters for the several districts abolished; the beginning of agitation by the antivivisectionists through the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a new ratio of the number of councilors to be elected by the districts, and reports of committees on physiology and hygiene and on contagious diseases in the public schools.

As far back as October, 1854, the council had adopted the following resolutions that had been introduced by Dr. Edward Jarvis:

*"Resolved, That the Councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society approve of the objects and purposes of the law of the last Legislature, in ordering an inquiry as to the number and condition of the insane and idiotic persons within this Commonwealth. They approve of the plan and manner which the Commissioners on Lunacy have adopted, in making this inquiry through the several members of the medical profession in the State."* *"Resolved, That the Councillors recommend to all the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society to cooperate with and aid the Commissioners in this work, to make early report of the facts required by the Legislature, and to lend their influence to persuade all other Medical Practitioners, the Overseers of the Poor, and other public officers of whom this information is asked, to do the same, in order that this Survey of Lunacy and Idiocy in Massachusetts may be complete."* *"Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the medical and other journals, signed by the President and Secretary of the Society."*

As we have seen in a previous chapter Dr. Jarvis was a statistician and public health worker of considerable reputation. Here he appears in an effort to coöperate with the law-making body of the state for the betterment of the status of the insane. The following extract from the record of the meeting of the council of October 6, 1880, shows further interest by the society as to the insane:

"A resolution passed by the Norfolk District Medical Society was read, stating that in the opinion of that society the present treatment of the insane by the public authorities, immediately prior to their legal commitments to an insane asylum, deserves a very searching investigation, and reporting this subject as worthy the consideration of the Massachusetts Medical Society, either in its corporate capacity or by some component committee of its Councillors."

The following committee were appointed to consider the question: Benjamin Cushing, Ira Russell, Alfred Hosmer, H. H. A. Beach and C. F. Folsom. The chairman of this committee, Dr. Cushing, was the leading practitioner of Dorchester where he had as a neighbor Dr. Jarvis, who at that time had had a stroke of apoplexy and was near his end. Dr. Cushing's committee reported at the next meeting of the council recommending an act regulating the commitment of the insane, to replace the faulty act then in force; the same committee, together with the president, then Dr. H. W. Williams, being requested to appear before the legislature and urge the adoption of the new act. The bill presented by the committee forecasted the law at the present time that provides for a ten-day period of observation at the Psychopathic Hospital. It follows:



"Section I. The superintendent of any public, private or corporate hospital for the insane may receive for custody and detain therein for any period not exceeding three days, and without any order of a judge or justice, any person as insane, whose case is duly certified to be one of emergency by two physicians qualified by law to sign certificates of insanity in this Commonwealth; and at the end of three days, or earlier if need be, any insane person so detained shall be discharged unless committed according to law by the proper judge or justice.

Section II. It shall be lawful for the superintendent of any insane asylum to entertain and keep in such asylum as a boarder and patient any person who is desirous of submitting himself to treatment, but whose mental condition is not such as to render it legal to grant certificates of insanity in his case; Provided always, that such boarder shall make written application for such treatment and that he shall not be detained for more than three days after having given notice of his intention or desire to leave such asylum, unless on certificates of insanity by two qualified physicians and an order from a judge or justice having been obtained.

Section III. One of the physicians signing a certificate of insanity may be an [medical] officer connected with an insane asylum, provided the person certified to be insane is sent to an asylum with which such physician is in no way connected.

Section IV. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed."

The above bill in the files is in the handwriting of Dr. Folsom who was secretary of the committee which presented it to the council at the February meeting in 1881.

Dr. Cushing reported at the annual meeting of the council in 1881 that an act had been passed which, though a gain on the one previously existing, was quite different from that proposed by the committee and was open to so many objections that the profession ought to endeavor to have the law still further modified. The matter was recommitted to the committee for such action as they saw fit to take. No further record on this matter can be found in the minutes of the council or society.

At the annual meeting of the society in 1885 it was voted to unite with the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane in urging Congress to pass enactments to effectively prevent the emigration and exportation to our ports of the so-called defective classes of Europe and Asia; in more recent times the society has shown an interest in restricting immigration to individuals who are physically and mentally normal.

The question whether the fees paid by the state to physicians who commit insane persons to asylums were sufficient was raised

by the following communication from a committee of the Bristol North District Society to the council in 1892:

"Taunton, May 26, 1892.

At the last meeting of the Bristol North District Society the subject of physicians' fees in insane commitments was under discussion. It was there agreed that the present fees are incommensurate (1) with the services rendered, as well as (2) with the responsibility incurred. Each commitment requires the physician to visit and carefully examine the patient; also to appear before the Justice and make oath to a statement in the case. Moreover, the liability to expensive litigation as defendant in a suit for damages for false commitment should have recognition in establishing the fee. Two such cases have been recently tried in this city. The defendants were fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society and competent men. In the first case the jury found against the physicians one dollar damages. In the second case the patient had been maniacal and violent, the examiners had taken great pains, the medical and other evidence was the plainest, yet the jury occupied twenty-one hours in reaching a verdict for the defendants.

In view of such facts the fellows of this district feel that some action looking toward a change in the law is desirable and request very respectfully that the matter be brought to the attention of the Society.

(Signed)

F. A. Hubbard

A. S. Deane

J. B. Gerould For the District Society."

The question raised was referred to a committee of the council composed of Charles F. Folsom, Francis B. Harrington, and Frank A. Hubbard, chairman of the committee of Bristol North. The committee reported October 4, 1892, that it was their unanimous opinion that it was "not expedient to ask for any further legislation in regard to the commitment of the insane."

It may be well to mention here that since 1908 the society has protected its fellows in suits for alleged illegal commitment of insane persons by the provisions of its Act for the Defence of Suits for Malpractice, adopted in June of that year. In the interim a number of such suits have been defended successfully by the counsel of the society at the expense of the society.

The next record of action touching on insanity was a communication from Dr. C. F. Folsom, the mental expert, to the council at its meeting, February 7, 1900, favoring the recommendation of the State Board of Insanity for the passage of an act for the state care of the insane. A committee of three, consisting of C. F. Folsom, J. C. White, and D. W. Cheever, was appointed to appear before the legislature and advocate such an act.

In all such attempts to influence legislation the society must be credited with good intentions. Only those who have never been behind the scenes, representatives of the people in state or national legislative bodies, will misunderstand the complicated process of getting desirable legislation on the statute books and the even greater difficulty of keeping it there when once enacted. To overbalance the trained politicians requires constant watchfulness and a ceaseless endeavor. Not many physicians have the time or inclination for such work; a few, with the gift, immolate themselves on the altar of public service to the detriment of the practice of medicine. All honor to them. Still fewer enter the halls of legislation as representatives; not infrequently these are not the strong men or the best exemplars of the medical profession and they cannot be depended on to advance progressive health legislation or to oppose vicious bills. It was not until 1894 that the Massachusetts Medical Society had a standing committee on state and national legislation; previous to this time special committees were appointed, as occasion arose, to take charge of matters affecting the public health which were to be incorporated in the laws. At the meeting of the council on June 12, 1894, Dr. George B. Shattuck, who had already served the society acceptably on Beacon Hill and was to be president in 1910-1912, offered the following preamble and motions:

"Experience has shown that occasions frequently arise when it is of great importance to the medical profession that its views should be properly presented to legislative bodies, either state or national. The legislation on which the opinion of the profession is entitled to respectful hearing may relate to:

1. The sanitary interests of the community.
2. Medical education, e.g. to bills to regulate the disposal of anatomical material, or the advancement of medicine by research.
3. The general interests of the profession as affected by registration laws etc.

In order to provide a suitable method for effectively presenting the views of the Massachusetts Medical Society it is *Moved*, That Section 7 of the Rules and Orders of the Councillors (i.e. the section defining what standing committees are to be appointed at the annual meeting of the council) be amended by the addition of the words: "a standing committee on State and National Legislation." It is further *Moved*, 1. That this committee shall consist of five members including the president, *ex officio*. 2. That it shall be the duty of this committee to take such action in reference to proposed legislation as shall, in their opinion, be most conducive to the interests of the medical profession, and they shall make an annual report thereon. 3. That this committee shall be authorized to expend for such purposes a sum which shall not (except by special vote of the council) exceed \$100. per annum."



The preamble and motions were adopted and under their provisions the first committee on state and national legislation was the following: F. K. Paddock, H. P. Walcott, H. P. Bowditch, T. H. Gage and S. D. Presbrey. This standing committee has been continued until the present. In February, 1899, it was authorized "to employ legal counsel at the expense of the society on matters of legislation committed to them." In another chapter we shall have something more to say about this committee and what it has accomplished.

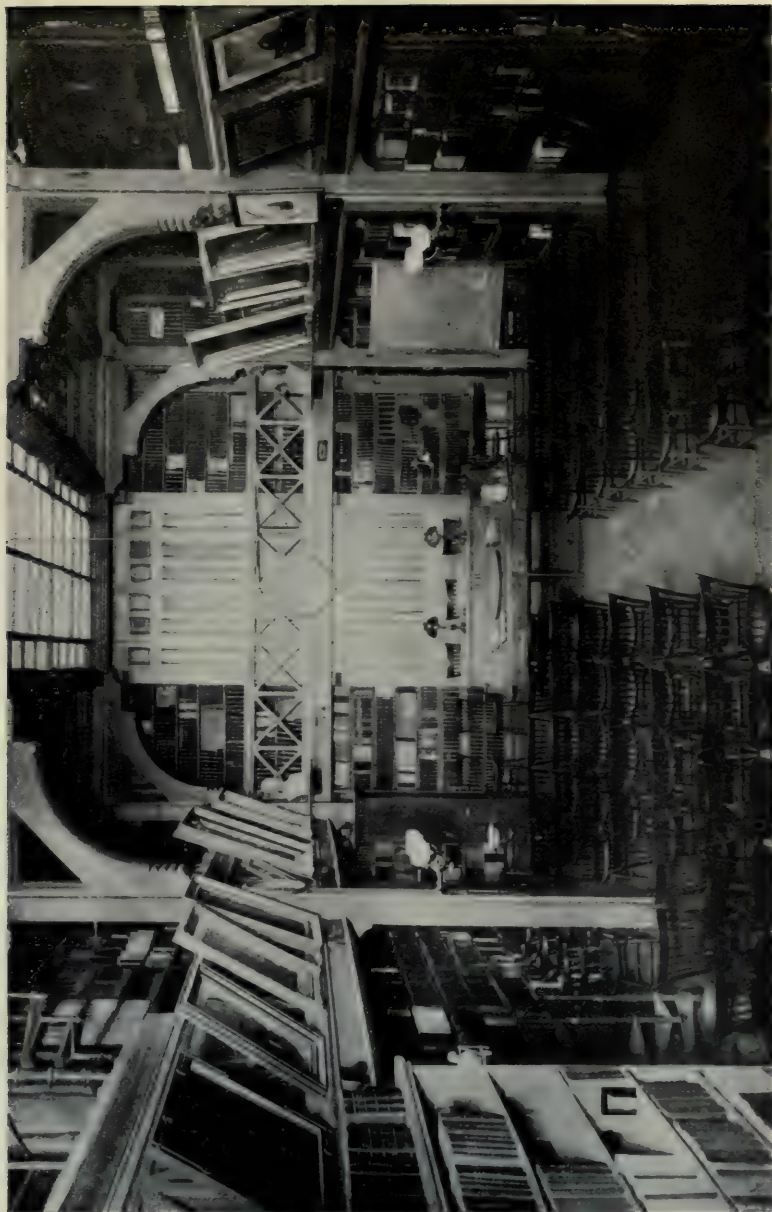
In a previous chapter the origin and progress of our Massachusetts state board of health has been traced. At the meeting of the council, held on June 8, 1886, Dr. G. B. Shattuck, chairman of the legislative committee on the State Board of Health, Lunacy and Charity, made a report in which was given an account of the labors of his committee which resulted in the establishment of a separate and independent state board of health. The report was accepted and the committee and Mr. T. H. Tyndale, who drew the act, were thanked for their efficient services. The committee, by the way, had been appointed June 9, 1885, and was made up of the following men: G. B. Shattuck, Emerson Warner, S. D. Presbrey, R. L. Hodgdon, J. M. Harlow, and also A. H. Johnson, who had been added to the committee in October.

At the same meeting in June, 1886, Dr. Charles W. Swan, chairman of the committee to procure scientific papers, moved, and it was voted,

"that the vote of the councillors, passed February 3, 1875, establishing the office of 'Reporter' in each district society, and defining his duties and those of the committee on scientific papers in connection therewith, be rescinded, and the office of Reporter hereby abolished."

Looking back at the record of the meeting of February 3, 1875, we find that the vote had been passed because the president had observed that fellows of some of the districts had represented to him that they did not have an equitable share in the scientific proceedings at the annual meetings, therefore the committee to procure scientific papers, a standing committee, was directed to obtain an annual report from each district through a committee or "reporter" and that such portions of these reports as seemed best were to be read at the annual meetings or published, in the discretion of the committee.

Anyone who has followed the doings of a state society will understand why such a scheme was not a success; the ability to prepare



HALL OF BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY, 19 BOYLSTON PLACE







papers for publication is not as widespread as the unthinking public, whether medical or lay, imagine. Therefore the office of reporter, revived spasmodically from time to time in the past history of the Massachusetts Medical Society, was abolished in 1886, after eleven years' trial, just as in the early years of the society's history it lapsed through ordinary inertia. Other state medical societies have tried this plan of gathering not only medical papers but news from the different county societies of which the state societies are made up. For a short time the plan seems to be workable but soon the reporter tires of his unpaid job and ceases to contribute or to get contributions. Sad as it may seem the only efficient method of getting results is to employ competent persons to obtain news items; papers are submitted by those writers who are anxious to submit their experiences to the medical public and have acquired the training which enables them to present their material in proper form. A committee can select those papers that are most suitable to be read to the annual meeting and the officers of the sections can choose those adapted to their audiences, soliciting matter from experts who ought to furnish it, of course without expense to the society. This is only another instance where professional training has distanced the amateur in the race for efficiency.

We may read in the chapter on Police Duty and Discipline how in 1878 a committee of three was appointed to draft a code of ethics for the society, that the matter was discussed at several meetings of the council that year and the next, and that finally on February 4, 1880, a concise code, drawn up by Henry J. Bigelow, was adopted. This code finally was acted on by the society on June 10, 1884, four years later. It was the code of ethics in force until, revised by the committee on ethics and discipline, the new code was adopted by the society June 9, 1920.

The committee on medical diplomas had its origin in a petition of the censors of the Suffolk District to the council on February 2, 1881, in which they asked for some action to secure a uniformly good standard of admission to the society. The council appointed as a committee to take the matter into consideration, Alfred Hosmer, F. K. Paddock, Franklin Nickerson, E. H. Bradford and H. W. Dudley. A part of the report of this committee, which was presented to the council June 7, 1881, was a recommendation that a committee of three be appointed to constitute a standing committee on Medical Diplomas,

"whose duty it shall be to prepare and submit for acceptance, with such subsequent additions and corrections as may be needed, a list of those American medical colleges which, in its opinion, deserve to be recognized by the councillors for the purpose set forth in By-Law I." i. e. in the by-laws of 1881: namely "that he [a candidate] has attended two terms of study, or two full courses of lectures in separate years, at an authorized medical school, recognized by the councillors of said society, and possesses a diploma or its equivalent from such school;"

In accordance with the recommendation of the committee the first Committee on Medical Diplomas consisted of C. W. Swan of Boston, at that time the corresponding secretary, Joel Spalding of Lowell and John Crowell of Haverhill. Next year the committee was J. C. Warren, A. H. Cowdrey and E. J. Forster. In 1885 W. L. Richardson replaced J. C. Warren as chairman and in 1889 the committee became A. H. Cowdrey, E. J. Forster and F. S. Watson. The first printed list of medical colleges recognized for the purposes set forth in By-Law I, was presented to the council and adopted by that body on February 1, 1882. A copy of it will be found in the Appendix, also a copy of the list of forty years later, adopted June 13, 1922. The first list was revised February 4, 1885, in June, 1886, and a supplementary list issued in February, 1888. From time to time, up to recent years, the council voted to add certain colleges to the list or to remove some that were considered no longer suitable, on recommendation of the committee on medical diplomas. The matter was frequently before the council and the committee was an active one.

The steps which led up to the forming of a board of supervising censors have considerable interest to the student of the perfecting of the machinery for the examination of candidates for fellowship in the society. The fact that no one could become a fellow of the society except after an examination by the censors has been referred to, the state law of 1859 making such examination obligatory. Eighteen boards of censors spread over the state made for individual action by each board; that the examinations should be uniform throughout the commonwealth was obviously desirable for a careless board might let down the bars, whereupon a candidate who had been so long separated from his place of legal residence that he might claim a new residence, would apply for examination to the lax board, rather than to the more exacting board of his home district. The Suffolk District censors were charged with the examination of non-resident applicants after the year 1850; all

other boards were to examine only those having residences within the confines of their districts. Naturally the censors were not too particular as to the residence of the applicant and complaint arose that certain districts passed on an undue proportion of the candidates. Like other offices it takes a certain time to become familiar with the duties of censor; boards meet only twice a year and if a district chooses an entirely new board of five men each year there are no old hands to pass along the knowledge of the duties and the customs from year to year. Accordingly the council adopted the following vote at its meeting of October 7, 1874:

*"Voted, That for the purpose of giving greater permanency to the composition of the several boards of censors and thereby rendering their action more consistent and more efficient, the councillors recommend to the district societies a re-election at each annual meeting of at least three of the old board; and also urge the exercise of the utmost care in selecting those who are to fill the important office of censor."*

This action seems to have been followed by desirable results and the practice is still in effect. Still, some provision looking toward uniformity of action by the different boards was necessary and the first step in that direction was taken February 1, 1882, when a communication was presented to the council from the "general censors meeting," signed by its chairman and secretary, petitioning the council

"to initiate such a change in the by-laws as may make an annual meeting of the censors obligatory; also to consider the question whether By-Law I does not require revision in order that it may be accepted as a literal guide for the several censors' boards."

In explanation of this communication it may be said that the "general censors meeting" had reference to the meeting of the censors of the Suffolk District to examine candidates at large. The term "reside" had been defined in 1876 as meaning always "legal residence." By-Law I, of the year 1881, then in force, was couched in general terms as it had been in the past and has continued.

The discussion of the communication brought out two propositions, one that there should be fewer boards of censors; the other that there should be only one board which should have stated meetings in various parts of the state. As these would require permission from the legislature a committee of three was appointed to consider the communication and report, the committee being S. K. Towle, A. H. Cowdrey and Robert Amory. Another com-



mittee to take into consideration the legality and feasibility of making such changes was G. C. Shattuck, H. W. Dudley, S. E. Stone, G. C. McClean and C. N. Chamberlain. The first committee reported in June, 1882:

"That it does not appear that the censors can be legally required to meet for any other purpose than to examine candidates for admission to the society but they suggest that the censors for the Suffolk district be requested to invite the censors of the other district societies to meet with them annually for conference."

The committee was not in favor of revising By-Law I, each board of censors being expected to exercise discretion in the examination of every candidate, and absolute uniformity was not possible or desirable. In the invitation of the censors of the Suffolk district to hold a meeting at which other boards of censors should be represented we see the precursor of the "board of supervisors," for although the censors had only one purpose in meeting, namely, to examine candidates for fellowship, it was possible for the society to constitute a board of chief censors, under the by-laws, to make plans for carrying out the examinations in the eighteen districts by means of a uniform scheme. As we shall see, this was accomplished in 1893. Concerning the report of the other committee, headed by Dr. G. C. Shattuck, the records say this:

"The report described various changes which it is legal and possible to make in the constitution of the boards so as to secure greater uniformity in examinations, but the question arose whether in making such changes some advantages of the present system might not be lost. The report closed with the recommendation that the question be referred to a committee charged with reporting on the whole subject of admission to the society, and suggesting such modifications of the present system as may be necessary."

The same committee was intrusted with this task. They stated their conclusions through their chairman, Dr. Shattuck, on February 7, 1883. They thought it would be manifestly undesirable to apply to the legislature for any modification of the charter. Experience had proved that the by-laws should not be modified except for urgent cause; the present system of admission came from much deliberation and experience, the growth of many years; much was being done and more might be done to promote its wise administration; the present system had not been given a thorough trial. Several resolutions were offered by the committee and the following were adopted:

*"Resolved, That the councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society hereby call upon the district societies to exercise great discretion and care in the choice of censors; and exhort all censors to a faithful and painstaking discharge of their duties as set forth in the by-laws and rules."*

The reader will contrast the attitude of the council to the censors as expressed in the above resolution with the attitude of the by-laws in the early days of the society when a penalty was imposed on the non-performance of the duty assigned a censor.

*"Resolved, That the councillors hereby express their approval of stated and occasional meetings of all the censors — who may thus confer as to how their responsible duties may be performed to the greatest advantage of the important interests intrusted to them — and recommend a continuance of these meetings."*

As looked at from the present time this resolution appears to have been rather footless and one can imagine that it had little effect on the censors of the state.

*"Resolved, That the councillors hereby call the attention of the district societies and censors to the following matters of great importance:*

All censors must be elected by ballot, and can be elected at the annual meetings only of the district societies.

No censor can act as such unless he be present at the meeting. No censor can act by deputy.

No board of censors can hold a special meeting, or adjourn except to a specified time and place.

Every board except the Suffolk board must hold a meeting whenever there is a stated meeting of its district society."

These resolutions were sent to every censor and to every district secretary. We note that at this time the censors had to meet every time the district society met. Of course now there are two stated meetings of the censors a year, and these have proved to be often enough, for there is a great deal of machinery to be put in motion before a candidate actually becomes a fellow; many can be attended to with only a small amount of additional trouble over what would be necessary for one. The censors must be paid, the names of candidates entered accurately on the official list, diplomas engrossed and various persons notified. A repeated enunciation of the rules of the game is a part of the successful management of the affairs of a large society, for most of the members think themselves too busy to read the by-laws. Herbert Spencer's dictum that "only by varied iteration can alien conceptions be forced upon reluctant minds" never had a better illustration. So circulars are prepared

and sent about to the various officers, from time to time, in the hope that the rules will sink in.

At the annual meeting of the council in this year (1883) the general censors requested an opinion as to the legality of special meetings of the censors and at the October meeting Dr. E. H. Bradford reported for a committee that had been appointed to consider this matter, that the censors might adjourn any meeting to such time or place within a given district as might be agreed upon; therefore they had the power to adjourn as frequently as they deemed necessary but it was stated that

"meetings at irregular times, to accommodate individuals, are liable to cause confusion and are not advisable."

As will be seen by consulting the description of the practice concerning giving diplomas and certificates of membership to new fellows (see chapter on Membership) no regular diploma was given out at this time, only a certificate, signed by the censors who issued it and by the president and secretary of the general society. Still, irregular meetings must always tend to sloppiness and inaccuracy and must increase the chances that candidates are not properly examined or that their names are not entered on the lists as they should be. In this respect the Massachusetts Medical Society has an enviable record, for these matters are not delegated to the uncertain and unknown, perhaps newly elected censors or district secretaries but to the central office of the society, where there is someone who has had training in a knowledge of the by-laws and in their working.

Nothing more was done about uniform examinations for candidates for fellowship until nine years later when, at the February meeting of the council, Dr. E. J. Forster, the new treasurer of the society, stated that he had been requested to ask that a committee of five be appointed to report to a future meeting of the council

"what changes, if any may be necessary or expedient to secure a uniform examination of candidates for fellowship."

The committee appointed was: T. M. Durrell, Middlesex South; J. H. McCollom, H. L. Burrell, Suffolk; G. C. McClean, Hampden; C. F. Withington, Norfolk. It reported February 1, 1893, setting forth that the examinations in the different districts were of uneven severity and thoroughness, that the boards of censors were com-



posed as a rule of young men who are naturally sharp critics of medical training, that the boards of censors know very little about the requirements for admission to other state medical societies and that there are many excellent regular practitioners scattered over the state who are not members of the society. The committee proposed to make a board of censors composed of eighteen members, one member from each district to be elected annually, the board to convene annually and at such times as the council should determine; that no fellow should be eligible for membership until he had been a member of the society for five years. By this plan they hoped to establish a uniform standard of examination for the state. They recommended eight changes in the by-laws embodying the proposed changes. The committee report was ordered printed and laid on the table, copies being sent to the councilors.

At the succeeding meeting of the council Dr. E. B. Harvey voiced the opposition to the committee report in that it exceeded the limitations of the charter; the proposed changes in the by-laws could not be passed without permission from the legislature. Throughout all the acts of the legislature regarding the society it had been provided that admission to the society should be through the boards of censors of the various districts into which the state had been divided. The chair was directed by vote to appoint a new committee consisting of the president, at that time Dr. J. C. White, acting as chairman, and one from each district. The committee was duly appointed and reported in print on February 7, 1894, the president taking the floor to explain the report, E. B. Harvey representing the Worcester district on the committee of nineteen. Recommendations were made to establish a board of supervising censors, called supervisors, one censor of each of the eighteen boards being designated a supervisor — he to be a councilor and therefore present at the meetings of the council; the supervisors should hold an annual meeting, elect their own chairman, ten members being a quorum. At the annual meeting the board of supervisors should adopt a uniform plan, consistent with the requirements of the by-laws, to be pursued during the ensuing year by each district board of censors in the examination of candidates for fellowship in the society. The secretary of the general society was to be secretary of the board; a committee of the board was to prepare examination papers which the secretary was to distribute to the supervisor in each district previous to each examination. Specific changes in the by-laws were furnished in the report to

bring about the suggested changes. All censors must have been fellows for at least ten years. One provision at the end of the report, which was adopted by vote at that meeting in 1894, is worthy of quoting here for the council reaffirmed it in an independent vote passed June 9, 1914, a measure that is still in force. Here is the clause of 1894:

"Should a candidate otherwise qualified, but without a diploma from one of the schools accredited by this society, satisfy the censors of the district society where he resides, by examination, that he has received an education equivalent to that prescribed by the by-laws of this society, the supervisor of said district society shall present the name, standing and qualifications of said candidate, to the full board of supervisors at their next meeting, whereupon the assenting votes of two-thirds of the supervisors present and voting, shall elect such a candidate to be a fellow of the society."

The first meeting of the board of supervisors was held at the rooms of the Boston Medical Library Association on October 2, 1895. Other meetings were held in November of that year and in February, 1896, at the same place. It does not appear from the records of the supervisors, kept in a separate book by the secretary of the society, that the just quoted passage received attention, for no name was brought before any of the meetings of the supervisors, of a candidate who did not possess a diploma from a recognized medical school. The following vote was passed *de novo* on the suggestion of the committee on medical education and medical diplomas ("medical education" and "medical diplomas" having been combined in 1913) at the annual meeting of the council, June 9, 1914:

"*Voted:* That the Committee on Medical Education and Medical Diplomas have power to recognize a medical degree coming from a not recognized medical school, presented by a candidate for fellowship in the Massachusetts Medical Society, provided such candidate has practised in a given locality for a minimum of five years, has proved himself to be a skillful and conscientious practitioner of medicine, and is recommended by a number of his neighbors who are already fellows of the Society."

At this time the committee on medical education and medical diplomas had become an active committee under the supervision of Dr. Harold C. Ernst, its chairman. It was wise policy to entrust the decision as to taking in fellows who had made good in their communities, as proved by five years' practice there, to this committee instead of to the board of supervisors, for after the first two years' trial of the working of that board it had been found best

to amend the rules and by-laws (in 1896) to the effect that five members of the board should constitute a quorum, that the annual meeting should be held the day of the annual meeting of the council, which the supervisors would naturally attend as councilors, that the railway fares of the supervisors to and from the meetings should be paid by the society. In other words, it was difficult to get frequent meetings. By the original plan, the censors were to hold three regular meetings a year, namely, on the Thursday next preceding the annual meeting of the society and on the third Thursdays of September and December. In 1897 the present plan was adopted, i.e., meetings in May and November; up to 1917 on the second Thursdays of those months; since then on the first Thursdays, in order to leave more time between the examinations in May and the annual meeting, so that new fellows might be properly admitted and invited to the anniversary. Under the revised by-laws of 1897 the procedure as to the examination of candidates was carefully specified. Perfecting amendments have been adopted from time to time as will be described in another chapter. The supervisor system has been found to work well in practice, the board holding, as a rule, only one meeting on the same day as that of the annual meeting of the council; on special occasions, as in 1915 and 1916, respectively, extra meetings were held to abolish the written examinations and to revise the chapter of the by-laws concerning the censors.

The first reference that can be found to an attempt by the society to cause to be put on the statute books of the state a medical practice act was a motion made by Dr. H. O. Marcy of Boston at an adjourned meeting of the society, June 10, 1884, to this effect:

"That a committee of one from each district society be appointed by the President, which committee shall be authorized to advise, and secure if possible from the state legislature, an enactment to protect the people from ignorant and incompetent practitioners of medicine."

The motion was passed and the president appointed a committee of eighteen on which William Cogswell represented Essex North; G. J. Townsend, Middlesex South; Joseph Stedman, Norfolk; and H. O. Marcy, Suffolk. The next step is recorded in the proceedings of the council for February 4, 1885, when Dr. E. B. Harvey, who was to play an important rôle in the first board of registration in medicine some nine years later, called attention to the importance



of taking immediate action towards securing from the legislature a law regulating the practice of medicine. Dr. G. J. Townsend, chairman of the committee of eighteen, appointed at the last annual meeting of the society, stated that the committee had already taken steps to carry out the duty assigned them. After a discussion it was voted that a committee of five be appointed from the membership of the council to aid the committee of eighteen in their petition to the legislature. The committee was G. C. Shattuck, B. E. Cotting, G. H. Lyman, H. W. Williams and Alfred Hosmer, all former presidents of the society. It was not until February 7, 1894 that Dr. Harvey read to the council the draft of a bill, prepared on the lines of the recommendation contained in the message of Governor Frederic T. Greenhalge to the general court, for the registration of practitioners of medicine. Maryland had passed its first practice law two years before. The time was ripe for the registration of those who were to take charge of the health of the individuals in the community. Dr. Harvey urged the members of the council to make efforts separately to influence their representatives and senators in behalf of the measure. How much the activities of the councilors had to do with the final result we do not know; the registration act went into effect in July, 1894, Dr. E. J. Forster, treasurer of the society, being the first secretary of the board of registration and Dr. Harvey resigning his seat in the Senate to accept the position of secretary and executive officer, at the request of the Governor, when Dr. Forster became surgeon-general of Massachusetts in June, 1895. This position Dr. Harvey held until April, 1913, when failing health forced his resignation. He was succeeded by Dr. Walter Prentice Bowers of Clinton, who served until 1922.

In the chapter called "Financial" an account is given of the Shattuck Bequest in the year 1854. At the annual meeting of the council, June 12, 1888, Dr. George B. Shattuck, for the standing committee on publications, reviewed the terms of his grandfather's will directing that the income of the Shattuck fund should be applied from time to time to the collection and publication, annually, at the discretion of the society, by some suitable person, of historical or other essays on the climate of the Commonwealth or on the diseases of its inhabitants, and on such other subjects as the society might select. In 1877 the council had directed the committee on publications to offer prizes for essays from this fund; the first year four essays were handed in, three of them of such

merit that it had been difficult to select the one to which the prize should be given. Subsequently no essays worthy of a prize had been offered. Three and a half years earlier the council had authorized the committee to offer a prize of one thousand dollars for an essay on the climate and its modifications as influencing health and disease, or on any of the diseases of the inhabitants of New England, or on any kindred subject, all essays to be handed in before March 1, 1888. Only three essays had been received and not one of them had been deemed worthy of a prize. From this experience and from the experience of members serving on other committees for awarding prizes, the committee unanimously voted to submit the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Publications be instructed to provide for a lecture, to be called the Shattuck Lecture, on some subject in accordance with what is specified in the will of the late Dr. Shattuck, the lecture to be delivered at the annual meeting of the society, the honorarium for it and the publication of it, to be defrayed from the income of the Shattuck fund.

*Resolved*, That the income of the Shattuck fund not required for the expenses of the lectureship shall be used for the printing of the Medical Communications of the society."

The resolutions were accepted and their recommendations adopted and it was further voted that lecturers under the Shattuck fund be not restricted to fellows of the society. The first lecture was given by the grandson of the donor, Dr. George B. Shattuck of Boston, at the annual meeting in 1890, the subject of his lecture being "Influenza in Massachusetts." A list of the subsequent lecturers and their subjects will be found in the Appendix.

A proposition to form sections in some of the departments of medicine at meetings on the anniversaries of the society was put before the council by Dr. E. H. Bradford on October 5, 1887. As a result the council appointed these five men as a committee to report on the subject: E. H. Bradford, W. L. Richardson, A. H. Johnson, G. E. Francis, F. W. Goss. The committee reported at the following meeting, February 1, 1888, with these recommendations, which were adopted:

"That beginning with the annual meeting in 1889, the hours of the afternoon sessions of the first day be occupied by meetings of Sections of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics.

That the Committee to Procure Scientific Papers arrange for the organization of the above-named Sections, and, in preparation for the meeting, select topics of interest and such as are capable of general discussion in their appropriate Section.

That the President be requested, in nominating the Committee to Procure Scientific Papers, to select its members with reference to the formation of these Sections.

That the Committee on Publications be requested to consider the advisability of providing for accurate reports of the discussions which follow the reading of the papers presented in the Sections."

Accordingly the "Sections" were established in 1889 under the jurisdiction of the committee to procure scientific papers and the committee on publications, at that time separate committees. The very important stenographic reporting of the discussions was begun, a proceeding which today seems to be part of a long-established order, a matter of course. At a later time we shall have occasion to speak of the modifications of the procedure by which the sections elect their own officers a year in advance of the meetings of the sections at which they are to officiate, instead of being appointed by the president, sometimes at the eleventh hour. The present plan results in programs prepared a long time before the meetings by those who are best qualified to select the best papers and discussers.

It may be mentioned here that the first meeting of the "Section in Obstetrics and Gynecology," as it was called, was on June 11, 1889, Dr. A. D. Sinclair being chairman and Dr. Alfred Worcester, secretary. It held its last session in 1892 when J. R. Chadwick was chairman and George Haven, secretary. After it had been discontinued the Suffolk District Medical Society held meetings of a similar character for several years. The "Section of Tuberculosis" held its first meeting in 1907 and has met yearly since; that of "Hospital Administration" began in 1917 and of "Diseases of Children" in 1920, and at each annual meeting after those years.

The Boston College of Physicians and Surgeons was organized in 1880 as a small semi-private medical school. The first class was graduated in 1882. For many years the school was quartered in a dwelling house on Shawmut Avenue near the corner of Rutland Street, not far from the Boston City Hospital. The graduates were anxious to have their medical diplomas recognized by the censors of the State medical society and on June 12, 1883 a petition that this school be placed on the list of medical colleges that were recognized by the council was presented to the council and was laid on the table. Then began attempts, often repeated even up to recent times, to have the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Boston recognized, with the result that for a short



period of time its diplomas were accepted — from 1891 to 1894, — again rejected; court proceedings were instituted to compel the society to accept its graduates. In recent years, on petition of the attorney-general of the Commonwealth, the legislature was asked to revoke the charter of the school. The story of the attempt for recognition is, in brief, as follows: A petition that the degrees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons be recognized by the council was sent to the Council of the State Society in 1883. At the meeting of that body next following that at which the petition had been received, namely, on October 3, 1883, the petition was taken from the table on motion by Dr. R. L. Hodgdon of Arlington; Dr. H. W. Dudley of Abington moved that the petition be granted "in so far as concerns the male graduates of the college," giving an account of the origin of the school, its history, course of instruction and requirements for a degree. The petition was referred to the Committee on Medical Diplomas, consisting at that time of W. L. Richardson, A. H. Cowdrey and E. J. Forster, the committee being requested to give the college a hearing. It may be well to remember that at that time there were only two medical schools in Massachusetts besides this College of Physicians and Surgeons, namely, the Harvard and Boston University schools. The Berkshire Medical Institution, organized in 1823, had become extinct in 1867, the New England Female Medical College had been merged with the Boston University School of Medicine in 1874, the Worcester Medical College ceased to operate in 1859, and the Tufts College Medical School was not organized until 1893.

The report of the Committee on Medical Diplomas to the council, February 6, 1884, through its chairman, W. L. Richardson, is worth setting down today. Here it is:

"The committee reported that they had devoted much time to the investigation of the matter committed to them and as the result of their investigation they were impressed with the fact that while the origin of the school was, to say the least, questionable, yet certain members of the present faculty were evidently endeavoring to so manage it as to furnish a fair medical education to such students as were unable to pay the fees charged by the best known schools in the country, and to give the degree of M.D. under such restrictions as would enforce the requirements contained in their annual announcements. They were also of the opinion that such has not always been the practice in this school. Carefully weighing all the facts in their possession they would report that they are unwilling to advise that the degree of M.D., heretofore given by this school, be recognized, and also, considering the effort now apparently being made by certain members of the faculty to improve the charac-

ter of the college, they are unwilling to pass judgment on its probable future. They would therefore recommend that at the present time the petitioners have leave to withdraw."

"Dr. Dudley remarked that he was confident the committee had been misled to some extent in their investigation, though he doubted not they had performed their duty thoroughly. He moved that the subject be recommitted to the committee so far as the future male graduates of the college are concerned."

The motion was carried.

No further entry was made in the records until October 1, 1890, when another petition from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Boston was presented to the council and referred to the Committee on Medical Diplomas. The following June this committee, then consisting of E. J. Forster, F. H. Hooper and H. E. Marion, recommended the passing of the following vote, which was adopted by 64 ayes and 10 noes:

"That the degree of M.D., of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Boston, conferred in and after 1891, be recognized by the Massachusetts Medical Society as qualifying for examination by the censors. Provided, however, that this recognition shall not be applied to *ad eundem* or honorary degrees, nor to any degree bestowed on any one who has previously graduated from the said institution, without a renewed fulfilment of the requirements of that school for the ordinary degree of M.D."

The next entry having to do with this medical school is in the minutes of the meeting held October 3, 1894, namely:

"A communication from Dr. W. A. White preferring charges against the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Boston was read. After remarks from Dr. Woodbridge, a representative of said college, challenging investigation it was *Voted*, That the matter be referred to the Committee on Medical Diplomas."

The Committee on Medical Diplomas reported through Dr. Forster, chairman, at the February meeting of the council in 1895 in these words:

"Your committee has given a hearing to the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and from the facts then presented, and from evidence derived from other sources, recommends that the councilors of the Massachusetts Medical Society withdraw from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Boston the recognition voted said college at the meeting of the councilors, held June 9, 1891."

The committee consisted at this time of E. J. Forster, treasurer of the society, H. E. Marion, and E. N. Whittier. Dr. Woodbridge argued at length against the adoption of the recommendation; the

motion was discussed thoroughly and finally passed by a rising vote, there being only four votes in the negative. Thus was the College of Physicians and Surgeons removed from the list of medical colleges, approved by the council, after a trial of four years. Meanwhile several medical colleges had been added to the list, the latest being the new school in Massachusetts, the Tufts College Medical School, in 1894. In October, 1895, another petition came from the excluded college and was referred to the same committee, and at the next meeting leave to withdraw was recommended and adopted.

Again in February, 1898, a petition was received, this time from Frank L. Whipple and others, graduates in 1895 and 1896 of the banned school, that they be allowed to be examined for admission to the society. The Committee on Medical Diplomas to which the petition was referred was composed at this time of H. E. Marion, E. N. Whittier and O. F. Rogers. It reported, June 7, 1898, that

"while there is good evidence that the college is doing honest work in the class-room, and has a fairly good equipment for doing such work, the committee believe that those who were responsible for the illegal sale of diplomas before 1895 are still in control of the affairs of the college, and therefore recommend that the society continue not to recognize the diplomas of the college in question."

The officers of the college next petitioned and their petition was denied, November 1, 1899.

On February 7, 1900, Dr. J. B. Ayer, supervising censor for Suffolk, announced to the council that the censors of that district had been served with notice of a petition to the Supreme Court for a mandamus to require them to examine a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Boston. The council authorized the employment of legal counsel to oppose the petition in court. In June, 1901 a full report of this case was made through Dr. Ayer from the brief of counsel, A. H. Wellman, Esq. The censors denied that they were under any obligation to examine the graduate of the school in question, one Thomassen. At the hearing before Judge Barker the court refused to issue the writ of mandamus, but at the request of the petitioner he said he would allow the case to be reported. Under these circumstances it became the duty of the petitioner to prepare a report. This he never did, and after lingering for many months the case was finally dismissed by agreement.



Thus ended attempts of the College of Physicians and Surgeons to have its diplomas recognized. In the second decade of 1900 the attorney-general of the Commonwealth, at the instigation of the Board of Registration in Medicine and others, brought a bill before the legislature to have the college deprived of the right to confer degrees. The bill failed of passage, however (see chapter on Recent Times).

A happening of the annual meeting of the society in the year 1891 was the appointment of a committee to prepare a suitable bill for the care and supervision of chronic adult epileptics in the state and to present it to the legislature. Dr. William Norton Bullard of Boston appeared before the society at the request of a committee of the "Clinical Section" of the Suffolk District Medical Society. He made the following statement:

"The time has now arrived when it is absolutely necessary, in the interests of common humanity, that some proper provision should be made for the care and treatment of chronic adult epileptics. The present arrangements by which such afflicted can only be received into lunatic hospitals or almshouses are totally inadequate. It is therefore recommended that a committee of five be appointed by the president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, with powers to prepare a suitable bill and to have the same presented to the legislature of the state, and said committee to have the arrangement and direction of such other matters in connection with this subject as may seem to them desirable."

The recommendation was adopted and the following appointed a committee to carry it out: W. N. Bullard, G. F. Jelly, H. R. Stedman, all of Boston; E. P. Elliot of Danvers and L. W. Baker of Baldwinville.

At the annual meeting of 1892 Dr. Bullard reported for his committee that the subject had been referred to the legislature of the next year and he recommended and it was voted to continue his committee. Again he reported to the annual meeting of the society in 1895 that an act had been passed by the General Court providing for a state hospital for the care and treatment of adult epileptics. The persistent work of the committee had borne fruit that was to inure to the lasting benefit of the state. In 1898 the Monson State Hospital in Palmer was opened with its twelve hundred beds where Dr. Everett Flood was to carry on his good work as superintendent for twenty years.

The antivivisection agitation began in 1892 with this entry in the council record of the meeting of February 3:

"A petition was presented from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals requesting action on the part of the Massachusetts Medical Society in the form of a resolution or otherwise, as to whether in its judgment *any law, and if so what law*, should be enacted by our legislature to restrict or limit the practice of vivisection by physicians, medical or other students or pupils *in medical or other colleges or schools*." "On motion by Dr. L. R. Stone it was *Voted*, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair [Amos H. Johnson] to report on the petition at a future meeting."

The committee appointed was H. P. Bowditch of Boston, F. A. Howe of Newburyport and J. F. A. Adams of Pittsfield. It reported June 7, 1892, as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the councilors are not aware that vivisections are practised in this state in an unnecessary or cruel manner. That the existing statutes furnish sufficient security against cruelty in vivisection, as well as against cruelty in general. That experience has shown it to be very undesirable to impose restrictions of any kind upon the advancement of medical science by the researches of properly qualified persons. That a copy of the above preamble (as in original petition) and resolutions be transmitted to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

The resolutions were adopted by vote.

The next heard of the antivivisection crusade is in 1896 when the committee on state and national legislation reported to the annual meeting of the council that they had heard that a bill had been introduced into the Congress of the United States for the restriction of biological research in the District of Columbia. It was resolved by the council at that meeting that a copy of the resolutions set down above be sent to the senators and representatives from Massachusetts as an expression of the opinion of the Massachusetts Medical Society with regard to legislation on this subject, either in Massachusetts or in the District of Columbia.

The subject has cropped up almost every year in the Massachusetts legislature for the past thirty years. An active antivivisection society conducts a propaganda by means of pamphlets, meetings and a lobby. Meanwhile any evidence of cruelty to animals is reported in the public press and the courts take prompt action. Every little while a man is fined for beating his horse or for neglecting to care for his live stock. Evidences of cruelty in the laboratories have not been forthcoming and the persons with the good intentions but without the knowledge of the facts continue on their way, satisfied that they are taking a high moral stand. Sancho Panza couches a lance as always.

Some other happenings of the early nineties were: a communication from Dr. H. O. Marcy in June, 1892, asking for the influence of the society in creating a cabinet officer for public health at Washington; the publication of the historical catalogue of 1893-1894; a committee to examine the records and documents of the society for the purpose of arranging the very considerable collection so that the valuable ones might be preserved and the useless ones destroyed; a new apportionment of councilors according to the membership of each district society at that time. The districts were asked to make the ex-presidents of the society, residing within the confines of the district, councilors, so that the council might have the benefit of the experience of these ex-officers; the office of anniversary chairman was abolished in 1894, and a new Digest of the laws of the Commonwealth was prepared in 1895.

Dr. Marcy's letter as to a cabinet officer of public health was referred to a committee composed of H. P. Walcott, at that time chairman, and S. W. Abbott, secretary of the State Board of Health, and Dr. Henry Jackson. The committee reported in February, 1893, through Dr. Walcott, that the National Board of Health, created in 1879, had practically ceased to exist; he alluded to the plans that had been made for the creation of a national sanitary authority, among them a cabinet officer of health. In the opinion of the committee a position in the cabinet would not increase the efficiency of a public health officer, in fact it would seem to be a decided disadvantage that this officer should be subject to any political test as to his fitness. The committee recommended:

"That the Congress of the United States be requested to create a national sanitary authority which shall be independent of the Army, the Navy or the Marine Hospital Service."

The report was accepted and its recommendation adopted.

At this same meeting in February, 1893 it was voted that the triennial catalogue to be issued that year contain the names of all past and present members of the society, so far as known. This was the important catalogue of 204 pages issued in the spring of 1894 as of January 1 of that year. No similar publication had before been published, containing as it did the early membership, historical memoranda, past officers, the annual discourses, Shattuck Lecturers, honorary membership, past and present fellows and licentiates. The triennial catalogue of 1875, prepared by Dr. Henry



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LIBRARY



Tuck of Boston, was a complete list of the past and present membership; the next triennial catalogue, for the year 1878, contained only the fellows of that year — after that appendixes were published every three years. Previous to 1875 annual catalogues had been published since 1858; before that irregularly since 1789, when the first printed catalogue had been issued. The historical catalogue of 1894 has been of the greatest use to the officers of the society since that time. It was compiled by the treasurer of the society, Dr. Edward Jacob Forster, and represented a vast amount of research in the old records and documents of the society.

We have read in a previous chapter how Dr. H. I. Bowditch went through all the papers and documents of the society that had accumulated previous to 1849, rearranged them, made his three huge books of pasted incunabula; in 1872 he moved that the records be put in a fireproof place, safe from harm; in 1879 a steel safe was purchased; the matter of the old records was brought to mind again in 1894 by the amount of study of these records made necessary by the preparation of the historical catalogue. Therefore on February 7, 1894, a committee of three was appointed by the president,

“with instructions and authority to examine all papers, manuscripts and documents belonging to the society now stored in the building of the Boston Medical Library Association, and deliver to the librarian such as they consider should be filed. The committee is authorized to destroy such of the remaining documents, receipted and outlawed bills, routine reports and the like, as in their unanimous opinion are not of present or probable prospective value to the society.”

Dr. E. J. Forster, Dr. F. W. Draper and Dr. F. H. Brown were the committee. Many of the documents bear their individual initials, showing that they had been subjected to scrutiny. The committee reported in June, 1894. A committee of three for the same purpose was appointed October 3, 1920, the committee being this time the treasurer, Dr. A. K. Stone, the secretary, Dr. W. L. Burrage and the librarian, Dr. E. H. Brigham. It met at the Medical Library on several occasions and additional work was done by the secretary and librarian and by the librarian of the Medical Library, Dr. J. W. Farlow. Many useless cancelled checks and receipts were disposed of and the valuable documents sorted and put into more available condition, at different times, both before and after the committee reported to the council in February, 1921.



The report of the committee will be found in the chapter on Recent Times.

The reapportionment of representative councilors elected by the district societies at their annual meetings was considered by the council at its meetings on October 3, 1894, and February 6, 1895. Dr. J. C. White, chairman of a committee to consider the subject at the October meeting, reported that the previous proportion of one to eight, i.e., one councilor for every eight members of a district society, previously in force had resulted in an unwieldy assembly of 226 councilors; such an apportionment suited a smaller society but as the society was growing in numbers he suggested that the ratio of one to twelve, which would give a council of 150 members, be adopted. Such a ratio would give at least two councilors to the smallest districts. An amendment to the by-laws was adopted making the ratio one to twelve and a majority fraction of twelve, the amendment being passed at the next annual meeting of the society. In the next chapter we shall see how this ratio was altered in later time as the society grew.

In this productive year of 1894 it was voted that the district societies should be advised to elect as councilors such ex-presidents as happened to be members of the districts and on the suggestion of Dr. D. W. Cheever the office of anniversary chairman, which had existed since Henry Halsey Childs filled it first at the meeting of the society in Worcester in 1851, be abolished as it was considered more dignified that the president should preside at the annual dinners. An amendment to By-Law XIX at an adjourned meeting of the society on October 3, 1894, made the change effective, and Herbert Leslie Burrell was the last anniversary chairman at the annual dinner of 1895, having been appointed in June, 1894.

The following year a movement was started at the annual meeting of the council

"to examine and report upon the digest, and also to consider what changes, if any, are necessary that the by-laws shall conform to the existing statutes."

A committee of five was appointed to examine and report. They were: E. B. Harvey, E. J. Forster, G. E. Francis, W. L. Richardson and F. W. Goss. The society had had "A Digest of the Acts of the Commonwealth relating to the Society" since May, 1859, when it had printed the digest that had been prepared by Dr. B. E. Cotting, at that time corresponding secretary, in conference with the older members of the society who had had greatest experience

with the by-laws, as he says in a footnote to his copy of the digest, now bound with the by-laws in volume numbered 2. The digest of Dr. Cotting had appeared with every subsequent edition of the by-laws, the last being issued in 1893. It was not surprising that an attempt should have been made to iron out the discrepancies and to assemble the portions no longer obsolete, in the acts that had been passed by so many different legislatures over such a long period of time: 1781, 1789, 1803, 1818, 1819, 1831, Revised Statutes of 1837, 1850, 1859. It seemed to be time for a new digest. The committee of five reported October 2, 1895, stating that they had come to no conclusion regarding the revision of the by-laws and asked for further time; they asked for "authority to petition the legislature, if deemed important, for an act of codification of the laws relating to the society." They were given further time but were denied authority to appear before the legislature. After a prolonged discussion participated in by Dr. Johnson, Dr. Harvey, Dr. White, Dr. Walcott, Dr. Cotting and Dr. Hartwell, Dr. Harvey reported, June 9, 1896, for his committee that a compilation of the statutes now in force relating to the society had been drafted by legal counsel (Mr. H. H. Sprague of the Suffolk Bar) also a revision of the by-laws, that they might conform more closely to the statutes in force. He asked for permission to print and distribute to the councilors so that they might have an opportunity to study them closely. The request was granted. October 7, in the same year, Dr. Harvey asked that the committee on state and national legislation be instructed to petition the legislature for a repeal of so much of Sec. 1, Chap. 20 of the Acts of 1850 as relates to the time at which the councilors and censors shall enter upon the duties of their office and also for a repeal of so much of Sec. 3, Chap. 123 of the Acts of 1803, as relates to the time at which the councilors shall elect the officers of the society. The by-laws were amended and referred to the society with the digest; they were adopted by the society at an adjourned meeting on the same day, no action being taken on the digest for it represented, as in the case of the first digest, an accumulation of parts of laws that were on the statute books of the Commonwealth. The digest is still in force; it has been verified and corrected from original sources by the secretary in recent time and is published with each edition of the by-laws.

A movement to separate the State Board of Lunacy from the charity department was inaugurated at this same meeting of the

council on February 5, 1896, by Dr. George F. Jelly, the insanity expert for a generation, then a councilor from Suffolk. He read to the council the draft of a petition and an act that had been presented to the legislature by the Boston Medico-Psychological Society and it was

*Voted*, "That the Committee on State and National Legislation be instructed to consider the question of a division of the State Board of Lunacy and Charity for the purpose of establishing a Board of Commissioners in Lunacy; and that the committee be empowered to act at its discretion, by petition to the state legislature, or otherwise, in aid of a petition to the same effect, already presented to the legislature by the Boston Medico-Psychological Society."

Taking part in the discussion were Dr. J. B. Ayer, Dr. J. M. Harlow, Dr. Edward Cowles, Dr. C. F. Folsom and Dr. H. P. Walcott. We know that the separation was made, resulting in the Board of Insanity, which, in recent years, has become the Department of Mental Diseases with a commissioner at its head.

A year later, at the February meeting of the council, Dr. F. W. Draper, Medical Examiner for Suffolk and the leading medico-legal expert of the community, offered the following resolution and vote, that were passed:

*"Resolved*, That the councilors of the Massachusetts Medical Society regard with cordial approval any just and practicable plan designed to improve the rules under which medical experts are employed in the courts. *Voted*, That the standing committee on State and National Legislation be requested to cooperate with committees chosen by other associations, legal and medical, to promote legislation in this Commonwealth for the amendment of the methods governing the use of expert witnesses."

This subject had been very close to the mind of Dr. Draper as well as to others who had had much to do with testifying in court, for that was a time when any sort of a poorly educated physician, one with a minimum of training, might pose as an expert, his testimony leading astray into improper channels the judgment of those in court.

It was in February, 1898, that a portrait of Benjamin Eddy Cotting was presented to the society by Dr. Cotting's relatives and it was ordered to be hung in the Supper Room at the Medical Library, the room in which the Cotting Lunches were usually served. It is there today and looks down on the councilors as they partake of the bounty of one who devoted much of his life to the promotion of good fellowship in the society; seeing the need of refreshment for the inner man after the prolonged meetings of



the governing body of the society he donated a thousand dollars at three separate times, 1876, 1881 and 1887, the income to provide the lunches. Without looking a gift horse in the mouth it may be stated that due to the high cost of food and the decreased revenue from investments the expense of the Cotting Lunches in the year 1921 was \$396.37, according to the treasurer's report, and the income from the Cotting Fund was \$135 for the same year, leaving a balance to be paid by the society of \$261.37. Such a post-war situation may be considered as abnormal. The lunches have done much to increase the attendance at council meetings; they are satisfying to the councilor who has taken a day from his practice up the state to attend a meeting in the capital. He knows he will have a good meal at the place of meeting and an opportunity to touch elbows with other prominent physicians from all over the state with an interchange of ideas at a social function that has been wisely joined to the deliberative session. All honor to the originator of this function. When Dr. Cotting's portrait was presented to the council at the February meeting in 1898, Dr. D. W. Cheever, who had a way of making pithy remarks, spoke of Dr. Cotting as "the father of the Massachusetts Medical Society during the latter half of the nineteenth century," as indeed he was.

The interest and activity of the society in questions of public health was evinced by a committee appointed at the annual meeting of the society in June, 1895, at the instance of the Middlesex South District society, which presented a communication on the condition of the instruction in physiology and hygiene in the public schools of the state. The committee was H. P. Bowditch, then professor of physiology in Harvard Medical School, A. H. Johnson of Salem, president of the society, 1890-1892, and G. W. Fitz of Cambridge. The committee reported through Dr. Bowditch, February 1, 1899, recommending the passage of the following motion:

"That in the opinion of the councilors of the Massachusetts Medical Society Chapter 332 of the Acts of 1895 should be so amended as to limit instruction in the physiological action of alcohol and narcotics to pupils of the high school grade. That a commission be formed, upon which the medical profession should be properly represented, to pass upon the text-books of anatomy, physiology and hygiene to be used in the public schools of the state, with the further provision that no text-books which fail to pass the commission shall be used in the schools of the state that are supported in whole or in part by public moneys and that the Committee on State and National Legislation be instructed to support any legislation which will tend to accomplish the purposes above set forth."

The committee on State and National Legislation reported at the next meeting of the council, namely, on June 13, 1899, that while it did not obtain the passage of such an act as was recommended by the council at its last meeting the committee did succeed in defeating a bill which had been introduced into the legislature, designed to make compulsory under a penalty, the teaching of the physiological action of alcohol and narcotics to the pupils of all grades in the public schools.

At this same meeting of the council a committee consisting of E. G. Cutler, visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital, J. H. McCollom, resident physician at the South Department (Infectious Diseases) Boston City Hospital, and J. F. A. Adams of Pittsfield, brought in a carefully worded report on the rules that should be observed as to quarantine after the different infectious diseases among the pupils of the public schools. The report was ordered printed in the Proceedings of the council, which at that time were sent to every fellow who had paid his dues.

In the last chapter we learned that the society and council had its headquarters with the Boston Medical Library at 19 Boylston Place, after 1879. The movement, started in 1896, to get a new and fireproof building for the Library had progressed so far in the spring of 1900 that the building on the Fenway seemed to be assured, therefore, we find in the council minutes of February 7, 1900 this entry:

*"Voted, That the Committee on Membership and Finance be requested to report to the council in June next what action should be taken by the Massachusetts Medical Society to secure rooms and accommodations for the meetings of the councilors, censors, sections, committees, the annual meeting (excepting the dinner), at an expense not exceeding one thousand dollars per annum."*

Accordingly, on June 12, 1900, there is recorded the following vote:

*"That the treasurer of the society be instructed and is hereby authorized to conclude arrangements with the Boston Medical Library whereby, at an annual rental or expense not exceeding seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) and for the term of three years beginning January 1, 1901, the Massachusetts Medical Society shall have in the new building of the said Library on the Fenway, in Boston, suitable and acceptable accommodations for all its councilors' meetings (stated, special, business and social); the meetings of its censors, acting as censors at large; all its committees; the sessions of its boards of trial; its archives and records; its Librarian's office and the storage of its publications and the meetings of its sections; the arrangement by lease or other equivalent instrument to include the lighting and heating as well as the use and occupancy of the several halls and rooms."*

The society moved into their new quarters on January 1, 1901, on the completion of the building, and have been there since. It is of some interest to know that in 1884, the year following the occupancy of the then new building of the Harvard Medical School, on the corner of Boylston and Exeter Streets in the Back Bay, overtures had been made to the society to establish its headquarters in the school building. At the February meeting of the council in that year the treasurer pointed out that the lease to the Medical Library Association — the word Association was not dropped until 1896 — would expire at the end of that month. The matter was referred to the officers of the society with full power to choose quarters and February 26, 1884 the officers voted:

“That it is inexpedient to remove from the present rooms. *Voted*, That the treasurer be instructed to represent to the authorities of the Medical Library Association that the present condition of the hall is uncomfortable and has been objected to by a large number of the councilors. *Voted*, That the treasurer be instructed to renew the lease, at the present rates, for one year.”

Thereby the society stayed with the Medical Library. As has been stated a part of the annual meeting in 1901, the exercises of the first day, was held in the new Library building at 8 The Fenway for the first time.

As regards the meeting-places of the society itself during this last twenty years of the century we have referred to the fact that the centennial meeting was held in Horticultural Hall, which was opposite the Granary Burying Ground on Tremont Street. The meeting was there in 1882, while in 1883 it went to Huntington Hall, the new auditorium of the Rogers Building of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on Boylston Street. A change in meeting-place was made in 1889 to the recently completed building of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association on Huntington Avenue. This large building with several halls offered accommodations for section meetings, a commercial exhibit, the meeting of the society itself and the annual dinner, all under one roof. The Mechanics building served as a meeting-place until 1901, when part of the meeting, namely, the sessions of the sections on Tuesday, were held in the new building of the Boston Medical Library, the meeting of the society itself in Chickering Hall on Huntington Avenue, near the corner of Massachusetts Avenue, and the annual dinner in Symphony Hall, also on Huntington Avenue, near at hand, on the other side of Massachusetts Avenue.



## BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID WILLIAMS CHEEVER<sup>1</sup> (1831-1915), Boston surgeon, was born in Portsmouth, N. H., November 30, 1831, the son of Charles Augustus Cheever, a widely known physician in Portsmouth and Southern New Hampshire, and his wife, of the well-known Haven family of that city.

Cheever, educated chiefly at home, entered Harvard in 1848. After graduation in 1852 he went to Europe, and returning began the study of medicine (1854) at the age of twenty-three, entering the Harvard Medical School, where Oliver Wendell Holmes taught anatomy, Storer obstetrics, and Henry J. Bigelow surgery.

In summer he went to the rival Boylston Medical School, taught by an ambitious group of young men without hospital or Harvard connections, where individual teaching and enthusiasm rewarded his venture. He accepted the position of student assistant at the State Penal Hospital on Rainsford Island in Boston harbor, where a profitable clinical experience in every department of medicine and, to a less extent, of surgery, gave him the real capital with which he started in practice, after graduating with honor in 1858.

General medicine, obstetrics, essays on medical topics in popular vein in the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *North American Review*, now engaged Cheever's attention. In 1859 the care of the smallpox hospital during an epidemic was eagerly accepted; in 1860 the winning of the Boylston Prize Essay brought reputation and a small stipend—such were the humble beginnings of a great career, as yet undirected into its final channel.

In 1860, Oliver Wendell Holmes, whose attention had been attracted to Cheever's industry in the dissecting room, offered him the position of demonstrator of anatomy, just vacated by Richard M. Hodges. Thus began a career of thirty-three years of teaching in the Harvard Medical School. For eight years he personally prepared the lecture demonstrations for Dr. Holmes and revolutionized the teaching in the dissecting room by the introduction of competitive student dissections and quizzes. He had the gift of teaching, perhaps inherited from his ancestor, Ezekiel Cheever, one of the earliest and most famous of the Masters of the Boston Latin School.

In 1864, the Boston City Hospital was founded and Cheever was made visiting surgeon, a rare opportunity in surgery for so young a man, who also in his teaching position had endless opportunities to practise operations on the cadaver. Cheever originated or revived unusual operations, wrote and published widely, and edited the first five volumes of the Hospital reports, much of the surgical text being from his pen; he was also for a time editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*. From the position of demonstrator of anatomy (1861-1866) he was advanced to assistant professor of anatomy (1866-1868), and later adjunct professor and then, in 1875, professor of clinical surgery. On the resignation of Dr. Henry J. Bigelow in 1882 he attained the zenith of surgical preferment in New England—the full professorship of surgery in the Harvard Medical School—a position which he held up to his voluntary

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviated from Dr. David Cheever's biography of his father in "American Medical Biographies."

resignation in 1893, when he was made professor emeritus and received an honorary LL. D. from Harvard. In 1895 he resigned from active hospital work, but continued to serve as president of the hospital staff. He served the University on the Board of Overseers for twelve years (1896 to 1908). He performed his last surgical operation at the age of 72, but continued to care faithfully for his old patients until shortly before his death twelve years later.

Cheever's surgical work was planned with painstaking care and thoroughness and executed with skill and despatch. He united consummate familiarity with anatomy and reasonable skill in dissection with rare surgical sagacity. He himself says: "I never thought I excelled as an operator, but rather as a painstaker." He originated or revived many bold and unusual operations: displacement of the upper jaw for nasopharyngeal tumors, removal of tumors of the tonsil by external incision, pharyngotomy, esophagotomy for foreign bodies in the esophagus, the radical cure of hernia; he performed the first two consecutive successful ovariectomies in Boston, before the introduction of antiseptics. He was one of the first, if not the first, in this region, to do Cæsarean section.

Cheever was an enthusiastic teacher of surgery, and thirty-three classes of students at the Harvard Medical School were his devoted disciples. At a period when the didactic lecture had not yet been relegated to an apologetic existence, Cheever's lectures in surgery were such models of brilliant condensation, lucidity, and system that they could not but be inspiring. He lectured extemporaneously in clean-cut simple words, in an easy conversational manner lacking any spectacular elements. His clinical teaching was seasoned with shrewd intuition and a dry wit which never stung.

His was a tall, slim, slightly stooping figure; his frame was frail, but in action vigorous. His manner was reserved, preoccupied, absorbed, partly by nature and partly by a curious ineptness in recognizing faces. His mien, his words, his clothes were without pretense—the outward expression of native simplicity and dignity. Weighing about one hundred and thirty pounds, his delicate physique seemed scarcely able to bear the weight of work, responsibility, and anxiety which he carried.

Cheever was active in medical societies; he organized a conference of the hospital staff. He initiated and aided wise public health legislation. For years he was one of the bulwarks at legislative hearings against the measures of the anti-vivisectionists and anti-vaccinationists. He helped to overthrow the pernicious coroner system in 1877, substituting the trained medical examiner. He fought for the sanctity of privileged communications from patient to physician, under due legal safeguards.

He was president of the American Surgical Association (1889); president of the Massachusetts Medical Society (1888–1890), and of many local professional organizations. He was honorary member of various state and foreign societies. He was president of the Boston Medical Library from 1896 to 1906, during the time that the funds were raised and the Library was established in its new building at the Fenway. Urged in his old age to become charter member of the American College of Surgeons, he hesitated, but in 1915 at the meeting in Boston, he accepted honorary membership.

He married Anna C. Nichols of Boston in 1860, and the advent of six children constituted their chief happiness. His greatest sorrows were the deaths



in childhood of his first-born, a son, and in adult life of a daughter by accidental drowning. He made to the Medical School and Hospital generous gifts, and gave in private to the needy; it was his especial delight to aid poor students and worthy colleagues. At leisure during the last ten years of his life, he resumed the study of Latin and Greek with a Harvard teacher, who, when cataract dimmed the vision, became his faithful secretary. Though doubtless aware that he could not live to greet his return, he gladly urged his only son to accept an opportunity to bring surgical aid to the wounded in France. On December 27, 1915, shortly after his eighty-fourth birthday, he died after a short illness and in full possession of his faculties.

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EDWIN BAYARD HARVEY<sup>1</sup> (1834-1913), secretary and executive officer of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, was the son of Ebenezer and Rozella Harvey. He was born in Deerfield, N. H., April 4, 1834, and died of chronic myocarditis, at his home in Westborough, Mass., September 28, 1913.

His boyhood days were spent on a farm, his father being a farmer and also a stone mason. His early education was obtained in the public schools of New Hampshire, and the Military Institute at Pembroke, N. H. During the year 1855 and a part of the year 1856 he was a student in the Seminary at Northfield, N. H., now known as Tilton Seminary.

He was graduated from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, in 1859, after which, for a short time, he taught school in Poultney, Vermont. He also served for two years as principal of Macedon Academy, Macedon, New York. He was for two years professor in natural science at Wesleyan Academy, Wilbraham, Massachusetts, and while there formed a friendship with a physician, the outcome of the intimacy being a determination on the part of Dr. Harvey to study medicine. Up to this period it had been his purpose to make teaching his life work. Entering Harvard Medical School he was graduated in 1866.

With the intention of settling in practice in the west he went to Waukegan, Illinois, and opened an office, but not finding the place to his liking stayed but a short time and returned east and settled in Westborough, Massachusetts. He at once took a leading position, not only in his profession, but in public affairs. He was an acknowledged parliamentarian, and for many years acted as moderator at town meetings. Like many practitioners of early times, he carried on a drug store in the town.

During his early years of practice the local paper in the town was suddenly left without an editor, and with his usual versatility Harvey stepped into the breach and added to his ever increasing duties that of editor, much of his work in this direction being done between the hours of midnight and day-break. The work finally proved too much, and feeling the need of a vacation as well as of further study in Europe, in the year 1872 he visited the leading hospitals, studying about a year in Leipsic and Vienna.

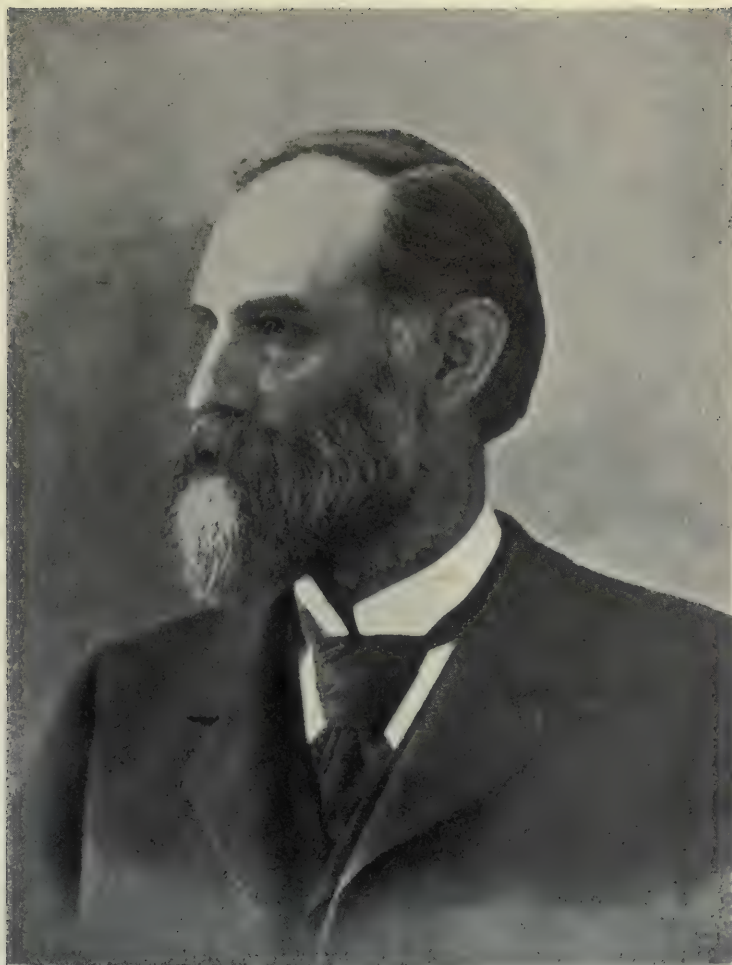
He joined the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1867, and was a councillor

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<sup>1</sup> From the biography by Dr. W. P. Bowers in "American Medical Biographies."



BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



*Edwin B. Harvey*



for over forty years, being elected in 1869 and serving continuously until his death. He was president of the Worcester District Medical Society in 1883 and 1884, and for two years (1898-1900) was president of the parent society.

From 1868 to 1900 Dr. Harvey served continuously on the Westborough school board, and from 1887 to 1900, acted as superintendent of schools. He was chairman of the board of trustees of the Westborough Public Library, and it was largely due to his efforts that the present library building of the town was erected. He was a trustee of the Westborough Savings Bank, and in 1873 was appointed by Governor Washburn a trustee of the reform school for boys at Westborough, in 1876 being reappointed by Governor Gaston.

He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1884 and 1885, and of the Massachusetts Senate in 1894 and 1895. He was the author of the bill to provide free text-books in the public schools, laboring assiduously for its passage.

In medicine he early turned his attention to constructive legislation, and had the honor of being the author of the bill for the establishment of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, and in aiding in its passage in 1894. In the closing hours of the legislative session of 1895, at the request of Governor Greenhalge, he resigned from the Senate to accept the position of secretary and executive officer of the Board of Registration in Medicine, a position he held from June 20, 1895, until April 1, 1913, when owing to continued ill health he was forced to resign as secretary, but in accordance with the request of his associates, he continued a member of the board until his death. After 1895 he gave up active practice.

Like all men of strong personalities, he often met opposition both personal and official, which sometimes developed into enmity, yet he had one of the kindest hearts, and was beloved by those who truly understood him, and especially by those most closely associated with him.

His advice was often sought by members of the Legislature upon questions relating to public health, and his aid was frequently requested in framing bills pertaining to legislation on medical affairs.

One piece of work of which he was justly proud was a paper on the "Impracticability of Interstate Reciprocity," delivered before the National Confederation of State Examining Medical Boards, in Boston, June 4, 1906. This paper was a classical and logical exposition of the complicated problems involved in an important question, and was so highly regarded that it was reprinted at the expense of the American Medical Association. Competent critics have termed this article "the argument which has never been answered."

Dr. Harvey was married in Concord, New Hampshire, July 30, 1860, to Abby Kimball Tenney. There were no children by the marriage.

He was a member of the Siloam Lodge of Masons, Westborough, and was a member of the Westborough Evangelical Church.

In a few words, it may be said that Dr. Harvey was one of those men occasionally seen among our fathers whose will and ambitions led first to a thorough preparation for a constructive and influential life and then did not depart from the pursuit of achievement. He never turned his back on an opponent, and he never cringed when facing overwhelming odds, as so often happened when battling against forces that opposed good legislation.



FRANK WINTHROP DRAPER<sup>1</sup> (1843-1909), pioneer Massachusetts medical examiner, was born in Wayland, Massachusetts, February 25, 1843, and died in Brookline, Massachusetts, April 19, 1909. He graduated A. B. from Brown University in the class of 1862, and took there his A. M. degree in 1865.

In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 35th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and saw active service on many fields over a wide area, extending from Virginia to Vicksburg. In March, 1864, he was in the Virginia Campaign and a month later was promoted to a captaincy and attached to the 9th Army Corps. He went through the Wilderness Campaign and was in the "Crater," that hell upon earth, before Petersburg. He served as aide to General Sigfried and was in the battle at Hatcher's Run, and he also served under General Terry in North Carolina and was present at the surrender of General Johnston. He resigned from the army in June, 1865, holding the position of acting assistant adjutant general, 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 25th Army Corps.

He wrote an interesting account of his service in the army, under the title "A Soldier's Narrative," which was published by his native town.

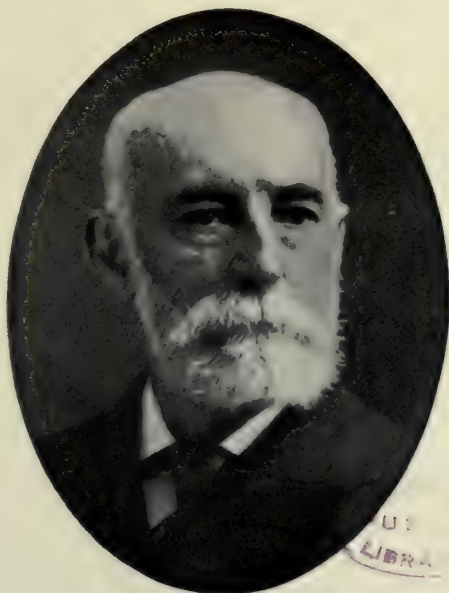
Soon after leaving the army, Dr. Draper entered the Harvard Medical School, from which he graduated with honors in 1869, having served a year as house surgeon at the Boston City Hospital. He entered upon general practice at once, and soon became assistant editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* and lecturer on hygiene at the Harvard Medical School.

In 1877 the old coroner system in Massachusetts was supplanted by the present efficient medical examiner system, proving to be a model for the rest of the country. Dr. Draper was the first appointee, in the large Suffolk District (Boston), establishing the new law upon its present firm foundation and bringing the work to the high standard it has since occupied. It is his monument and merits all praise. He held the position twenty-eight years, or until failing health compelled his retirement. During this time he investigated over 8,000 deaths and performed more than 3,000 autopsies. He summarized his experience in his book entitled "A Text Book of Legal Medicine," published in 1905. He lectured on hygiene at the Harvard Medical School from 1875 to 1878, and on forensic medicine from 1878 to 1884, becoming assistant professor of legal medicine in the latter year, and professor from 1889 to 1903.

When in 1877 the Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society was formed, Dr. Draper took a prominent part in its deliberations, and was its secretary for several years. He was a member of the State Board of Health for six years, 1886-1892, and was also visiting physician at the Boston City Hospital, 1874-1886, and the Children's Hospital, 1873-1874. He always took an active part in the affairs of the Massachusetts Medical Society, serving as councillor, 1873-1905; secretary, 1873-1875; president, 1900-1902, and for sixteen years was its efficient treasurer, 1875-1891.

For many years Dr. Draper was one of our most prominent medical experts, and saw much service in the courts in that capacity. The character of this work is shown by the remarks often heard from attorneys to the effect that

<sup>1</sup> From the biography by Dr. G. W. Gay, in "American Medical Biographies."



FRANK WINTHROP DRAPER





they did not care which party called him so long as he was in the case, his evidence being regarded as always fair and impartial.

As a writer, Dr. Draper was unusually clear and forceful and a model in style, and as a lecturer he was succinct and interesting.

He belonged to various societies, in which he was a valuable member and was always available for important service.

He married Miss Fanny Jones in the early seventies, and had two sons, one of whom became a physician. Liberal in his religious views and deeply reverential in all sacred things, Dr. Draper had few enemies, and yet he was firm in his convictions and had the courage to express them upon all proper occasions, having the rare faculty of differing pleasantly and leaving no sting or scar. Modest, lovable and most companionable, he was a rare spirit, never to be forgotten by all who knew him.

Failing health from arterio-sclerosis gradually lessened his activities for three or four years, terminating finally in cerebral hemorrhage. He was calm and philosophical to the last, as might have been expected of such a character.

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EDWARD JACOB FORSTER (1846-1896) was the son of Jacob and Louisa Webb Forster, descendants of one Reginald Forster, who settled in Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1638. Edward was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, July 9, 1846, and went to the public schools, graduating from the Harvard Medical School in 1868, then studying medicine in Paris and in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, where he was an interne. In 1869 he was a licentiate in midwifery of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, returning to begin practice in Charlestown the same year. He had his home and a major part of his practice in Charlestown, a part of Boston, until 1891, when he removed to the Back Bay district. He was city physician of Charlestown from 1871 to 1872. For eight years he was visiting physician to the Boston City Hospital and was one of the two original visiting physicians for the diseases of women on the formation of the department of gynecology in that institution in 1892, holding the position at the time of his death. He was one of the original members and the first secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine when it was created in July, 1894; an active member of the Obstetrical Society of Boston; surgeon of the Fifth Regiment for ten years, then medical director of the First Brigade and finally surgeon-general of Massachusetts, resigning from the Board of Registration in June, 1895, to accept this position. He was treasurer of the Boston Medical Library and treasurer of the Massachusetts Medical Society, spending a great deal of time and energy not only in the transaction of the duties of his office but in many other activities, notably as a member of the standing committee on medical diplomas, and in the preparation of an historical catalogue in 1893.

Dr. Forster was the author of a "Manual for Medical Officers of the Militia of the United States," New York, 1877; "Mushrooms and Mushroom Poisoning," Boston, 1890; "A Sketch of the Medical Profession in Suffolk County," Boston, 1894; "A Catalogue of the Officers, Fellows and Licentiates of the Massachusetts Medical Society, 1781-1893," Boston, 1894.

He married, September 5, 1871, Anita Damon, daughter of Dr. Henry Lyon

(Harvard College, 1835). They had three children, all girls. Dr. Forster died suddenly of cerebral hemorrhage, May 15, 1896, in New York, on his return from Philadelphia, whither he had gone on official duty as Surgeon General of Massachusetts.

Short and stout, of dark complexion, his manner was brusque and a bit aggressive to the casual stranger. His family and intimates knew him as a warm hearted and true friend.



## CHAPTER VI

### THE FIRST DECADE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

1901-1910

THE Massachusetts Medical Society began the new century with its headquarters in the recently completed building of the Boston Medical Library at 8 The Fenway, next door to the home of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The first agreement between the society and the Library for the use of the rooms, halls and the vault ran from January 1, 1901, for one year, as announced by the treasurer at the first meeting of the council in the building on February 6, 1901. The Library has continued to be the domicile of the society during the intervening years. It is a most central location both for the city of Boston and for the metropolitan area, being easily and conveniently reached by electric car lines and by the Boston park system, so far as automobile traffic is concerned. The Massachusetts station of the subway is a short distance away; through it connection is maintained with all the railway stations of the city. Like New York City all railway lines touch Boston; therefore it is easy of access to eastern Massachusetts. The Medical Library looks out on the Back Bay fens towards the southwest, a large open space bathed in sunshine and swept by the breezes from the country. While very central, the location is quiet, being on the park and set back from the main avenues of traffic, an ideal situation as a gathering-place for the medical profession whether for the purpose of consulting books or for scientific or social meetings. The Boston members of the profession spent much time and thought in the years succeeding 1896 in establishing such a worthy meeting-place; it was no trifling matter to raise the funds for the Library structure which stands as a monument to the altruism of the profession of medicine in the chief city of the state; a noble building in a matchless location.

In this first year of the period we are about to consider, the year 1901, several matters of importance engaged the attention of the state medical society. Among them were a protest to the



legislature against granting special degrees such as "Doctor of Physiological Optics" and "Bachelor of Optics," particularly when no previous medical education was required; also the beginning of the agitation which led up to the adoption by the society of malpractice defence; another attempt to improve the system for the registration of births and deaths in Massachusetts; the adoption, as a condition for restoration to the privileges of fellowship of those who had been dropped for non-payment of dues, that they pay "promptly" whatever they owed the society at the time they had been dropped, plus the dues for the current year; a paper by D. W. Cheever on "privileged communications," advocating the amendment of the rules in Massachusetts whereby no physician should be allowed to betray professional confidences in court except by the express direction of the judge; and finally, vaccination and revaccination, urged by J. H. McCollom as a protection against a threatened smallpox epidemic.

The protest against allowing the New England Optical Institute to grant special degrees was brought up in the council at its meeting on February 6 by Dr. Hasket Derby apropos of a petition that had been filed in the legislature by the optical institute. The council directed the committee on state and national legislation to appear in person or by counsel at the State House and oppose that and similar legislation. At the succeeding council meeting Dr. Derby reported that the legislature had not granted the petition and, at his suggestion, the sum of one hundred dollars was appropriated from the society's treasury to oppose any further petition that might be offered in the next year. At this meeting, in June, 1901, Dr. Harvey spoke of several bills then before the legislature on the subjects of vaccination, vivisection, osteopathy and other matters which threatened a high standard of medical education and the prosecution of medical research in the medical schools; at his suggestion the council voted to oppose such bills through the committee on state and national legislation, at that time composed of F. W. Draper, H. P. Bowditch, S. D. Presbrey, S. W. Abbott and B. H. Hartwell, and to draw on the treasury for such sum as might be necessary to carry out their plans. On June 10, 1902, the committee reported progress; that they had opposed successfully a bill for regulating vivisection, a bill to modify the law relating to registration in medicine, and bills to recognize osteopathy and to grant certain privileges to osteopaths. In each case the petitioners had been given leave to withdraw. In

this action are to be seen constant efforts by the society to uphold the standards of medicine, and not, as alleged by certain politicians at the State House, to maintain the "medical trust" and prevent the generality from practising as they please. Further on we shall have something more to say on this topic, in the light of repeated attempts to advance legislation in the interests of the higher aims of medicine and to oppose the ambitions of the unworthy cults, unworthy because not founded on education and training.

By reference to the chapter on Malpractice Defence it will be observed that a communication from the Plymouth district society was read at the meeting of the council on June 11, 1901, asking that a bureau be organized under the auspices of the society

"for the mutual support and financial defense of its members against damaging blackmail and malpractice suits at law."

This was the forerunner of the "malpractice act," so called, passed by the society June 10, 1908. It was at this meeting of the council in February, 1901 that Dr. J. B. Ayer explained the petition for a writ of mandamus by one Thomassen, a graduate of the Boston College of Physicians and Surgeons, against the censors of the Suffolk district, for refusing to examine him as a candidate for fellowship in the society. The outcome of the petition has been described in the last chapter. Eighteen years later the status of this medical college came to the fore once more, as we shall see when we come to the meeting of the council on June 3, 1919.

At the meeting on June 11, 1901 Dr. H. R. Hitchcock of Hyde Park called attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the state registration of births, marriages and deaths; the matter was referred to the committee on state and national legislation while a resolution was passed to the effect that the Governor be asked to appoint a committee of three experts whose duty it should be to consider the subject of births, marriages and deaths from the standpoint of efficiency and make a report to the legislature with recommendations. On June 10, 1902 the committee on state and national legislation reported that while favoring Dr. Hitchcock's project in its general relations it recommended that the matter be referred to a special committee of three who were fully familiar with the facts. In accordance with this suggestion the council appointed as a committee of three C. F. Folsom, J. M. French and H. R. Hitchcock. The chairman, Dr. Folsom, reported on February 4, 1903



"that the matter of vital statistics in Massachusetts is absolutely in the hands of the Secretary of State, and whatever improvements are made must be all accomplished through his office. As a result of the interest in the subject the Secretary of State will advise legislation — which he will probably secure, but not as much will be done in this direction as your committee would desire, or as would satisfy the Massachusetts Medical Society. The committee does not deem it expedient to attempt to do anything more at present, but advises waiting in order to see the results of the improved work which will be introduced this year, and with the hope that more will be accomplished in the future."

This is the end of the quotation. The matter is still *in statu quo*. Vital statistics are in the hands of the Secretary of State at the present time. A relatively new official in the office of secretary of the Commonwealth sent a letter to the secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society on January 28, 1922, stating that he was trying to bring about a better understanding between the physicians and his office relative to the proper classification of causes of death and the prompt and accurate return of births. A blank return for reporting births was sent with the letter, which was discussed by the council at its meeting on February 1, the letter and the blank being printed with the Proceedings of the Council in the official organ of the society, the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*. Therefore the entente between the Secretary of State and the society is maintained at the present time, although the society still feels that vital statistics should be in charge of medically trained officials rather than with laymen, in order that they may be scientifically accurate and in conformity with the latest ideas on the subject.

A matter of perhaps minor importance but one which has in later years contributed to a proper morale in the society is that concerning the requirements that should be exacted from fellows who have been deprived of the privileges of fellowship under the terms of Section 8 of Chapter I of the by-laws, for non-payment of dues, when they apply for restoration to those privileges. If fellows had neglected to pay their annual dues for three successive years, after they had received three successive bills from district treasurers and two notices from the treasurer of the society that they were in arrears and liable to be dropped, it had been a custom to bring their names before the standing committee on membership and finance, and if there were no palliating circumstances the names of such fellows were sent to the council with a recommendation that they be deprived, or in other words, their names dropped from the



list of fellows. At the meeting of the council on February 7, 1908, forty fellows were dropped in this way and on October 5, 1910, the number was fifty-five, although subsequently these high figures were seldom equaled, the number being about ten or twenty at a meeting. The question arose under what conditions should fellows who had been thus deprived be restored to the privileges of fellowship. They must present a petition to the council to be restored and such a petition was referred to a committee of three fellows who lived in the district of the petitioner; the committee reported to a subsequent meeting of the council with recommendations, and the council, which had taken away the privileges restored them, if it thought best. In the record of the council meeting of October 2, 1901, appears the statement that a deprived fellow was to be restored "on the condition that he promptly pays his indebtedness to the society." On June 7, 1904, one past fellow was restored "having paid his past indebtedness to the society" and two more petitioners were to be restored "on condition that they pay promptly their indebtedness to the society together with the fee for the current year." This plan of taking back recalcitrant members persists to the present, with the addition of more specific requirements, for it was found in the last years of the first decade of the century that the word "promptly" was susceptible of different interpretations and petitioners were in an indeterminate state, sometimes for a series of months; many did not pay up and all the trouble of getting petitions, committees to consider them and reports from those committees — often a matter of considerable drumming up — went for nothing. Then it was required that all petitioners, unless the committee in charge of a petition found that they had suffered a hardship in the way of poor health or financial reverses, should pay back dues that had accrued at the time they had been deprived, plus the dues for the current year, within one month of the date of favorable action by the council on their petitions. That provision, eminently fair — for if no such provision were made what would prevent any fellow from neglecting payment and then starting membership again? — has resulted in replacing many names on the roll of fellows; it has increased the respect of many backsliders for the society — few of those who have been restored ever default again — and it has restored to the treasury of the society a great many dollars which would have been lost, under the former regime. Under the present requirements there are from three to six petitions for restoration at

every meeting of the council and far fewer fellows are deprived than formerly, due in part to the labors of the treasurer and the district treasurers in securing payments promptly by active work on their part, rather than by a waiting policy, as of other days.

The question of changing the rules concerning the disclosure of privileged communications by physicians on the witness stand, in court — confidences made to them by their patients — the requirements of the law being that the physician is obliged to state publicly any information he may have, whatever its source, was taken up by Dr. D. W. Cheever at a meeting of the council on October 2, 1901. He thought the rules in Massachusetts should conform to those in New York State where professional confidences need not be disclosed unless the judge of a criminal court decides that it is necessary in the cause of justice. The communication having been referred to the committee on state and national legislation that committee reported June 10, 1902, that they were unable to agree on a formal conclusion and recommended that papers on this subject should be presented at the next annual meeting. Accordingly at the annual meeting of the society on June 10, 1903, the following papers were read: "A Plea for a Change in the Massachusetts Law," by Dr. D. W. Cheever of Boston; "The Working of the New York Law," by Walter Soren Esq., of Brookline; "Privileged Communications to Physicians," by F. J. Stimson, Esq. of Dedham, the last paper being read by title. So far as discoverable no action by the council or society was taken on the question involved at that time. The law in this state was modified to conform to the New York law, some ten years later.

In the chapter on The Reorganization and The Next Fifty Years the attitude of the society on vaccination in the years 1837 and 1838, reaffirming the position taken in 1808, has been referred to. The important matter was revived again at the October meeting of the Council, in 1901 when J. H. McCollom, leading expert in infectious diseases, appealed to the councilors that they urge on their patients individually at that time the importance of primary vaccination and revaccination. He thought that the community was on the verge of an epidemic of smallpox; that the conditions were similar to those which obtained in the epidemic of 1872; that there were many persons in the community who were unprotected by vaccination. At the next meeting of

the council Dr. A. K. Stone of the Committee to Procure Scientific Papers, said that Dr. McCollom had consented to prepare a paper for the annual meeting on the accidents which occur in the course of vaccination for smallpox and asked that a circular inquiring the experience of the practitioners throughout the state be sent to every registered physician. This was voted, the expense to be borne by the society. At the annual meeting June 10, 1902, the program of the Section of Medicine was as follows:

"Vaccine: Its Method of Preparation. — By Professor Theobald Smith, West Roxbury; Vaccination: The Technique. — By Dr. E. A. Darling, Cambridge; Vaccination: Accidents and Untoward Effects. — By Dr. J. H. McCollom, Boston; Smallpox: Its Diagnosis. — By Dr. J. T. Bullard, New Bedford; Smallpox: Management of Epidemics. — By Dr. S. W. Abbott, Newton; Smallpox: Its Medical Treatment. — By Dr. Michael Kelly, Fall River. The meeting may be regarded as an important one as all the experts in infectious diseases in Massachusetts were represented on the program; the subject was thoroughly gone over and brought up to date by those best fitted by experience to express opinions. In reading the records of the annual meetings we note a paper on "Some Interesting Features Connected with the Outbreak of Smallpox at North Adams, Mass., in 1904, by Dr. L. A. Jones of North Adams," delivered at the annual meeting of 1905. One has in mind the recent papers of Ex-Presidents George W. Gay and S. B. Woodward, published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, the most recent being that on the "Legislative Aspects of Vaccination," by Dr. Woodward, delivered at the annual meeting of the society in 1921, after three years' constant opposition before committees of the legislature, in his capacity of chairman of the standing committee of the society on state and national legislation, to bills that were intended to set back sane laws for the protection of the public by vaccination.

In the year 1902, specifically at the council meeting on the fifth of February in that year, the subject of the appointment of delegates to the meetings of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association was brought up. The president, Dr. F. W. Draper, stated that recent changes in the constitution and by-laws of the national society made it necessary to change the manner of electing delegates from the state medical societies to the governing body of the national association, therefore it was



*Voted*, "That the resolution adopted in February, 1852, authorizing the district societies, or their presidents or secretaries to appoint delegates to the American Medical Association, to be entitled 'Delegates of the Massachusetts Medical Society,' be rescinded." *Voted*, "That the councilors, on nomination by the President, appoint delegates to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the said association."

This manner of appointing delegates has been in force ever since. Every three years the Association declares the proportion of delegates to the number of members of the constituent state medical societies. For a series of years Massachusetts has been allotted five delegates under this plan; the council appointing three delegates one year and two the next, each set for a term of service of two years. It has been the object of the presidents in making the nominations to the council, to give as complete representation to the different parts of the state as possible and to perpetuate the same delegates so long as they were willing to serve and gave satisfactory attention to their work at the meetings of the House of Delegates, for in legislation new brooms do not sweep clean; a year or two of trial is necessary before they remove any appreciable dirt from the irregular surface of a law-making body.

The last participation in a council meeting by the venerable Dr. Morrill Wyman of Cambridge, then ninety years old, was when he introduced a motion at the October meeting of the council in 1902 that an index be made of the Medical Communications of the society which had been published since 1790. In accordance with the vote passed at that meeting a forty-page pamphlet giving both author and subject indexes was prepared by Dr. F. W. Goss and published in 1903, a publication which has been of great use to searchers after the papers that had been read before the society or its sections during the previous one hundred and twelve years. David Clapp & Son, Printers, who had done the printing for the society for the past fifty years issued the pamphlet.

The passage of a law by the legislature in 1903 under the terms of which the State Board of Health was to manufacture and distribute free of expense diphtheria antitoxin and smallpox vaccine to all who applied for them was an important happening of that year. In February Dr. H. M. Cutts called the attention of the council to the work that a committee of the Norfolk District Medical Society had been undertaking to secure the passage of a bill for this end; on motion the sum of \$75 was appropriated for the

use of that committee. At the October meeting a further sum of \$73.17 was voted to be refunded to the Norfolk District for additional expenses incurred by the committee, which had appeared before a committee of the legislature in advocacy of the bill. A further vote was passed to this effect:

"That the secretary be directed to extend to Van Courtland Lawrence Esq., the thanks of the society for the valuable service, gratuitously rendered, in aid of securing legislation authorizing the State Board of Health to produce and distribute free antitoxin and vaccine to the citizens of the Commonwealth."

It is unnecessary to comment here on the beneficent operation of this act in the years that have intervened. Credit must be given to the Norfolk District for the results brought about through the agency of their committee. It was thought by the committee on state and national legislation that an attempt would be made the following year to rescind this act and the council appropriated \$500, to be placed at the disposal of that standing committee to oppose such action. As there is no further reference to this matter in the reports of the committee on state and national legislation and as the treasurer's reports for 1904 and 1905, — made at that time for the years ending on April 15 — contain no items charged to that committee we may conclude that any attempts that may have been made did not attain serious proportions.

That forceful personality, Arthur T. Cabot, began his campaign against tuberculosis in the first year of his presidency of the Massachusetts Medical Society (1904) when as chairman of the standing committee on state and national legislation he obtained from the council a vote to appropriate the sum of \$600, from the treasury of the society for the purpose of advancing a bill then before the legislature to provide for an exhibition of the means and methods of treating and preventing tuberculosis. Although the sum appropriated was to be used also for opposing undesirable legislation in general, Dr. Cabot took the floor to urge the councilors to use their personal influence with the legislative committee on public health to forward the bill on tuberculosis. In its report to the council in the year 1907 the committee on state and national legislation stated that the committee had advocated the passage of a bill for further provisions for the care of patients with advanced tuberculosis and at this meeting the council appropriated the sum of \$300 for the use of the "Committee on Tuberculosis" at the instance of Dr. Cabot. How or at what time this committee was appointed

the records do not state. The next year at the annual meeting Dr. Cabot was on hand to inform the council that only \$104 of the amount asked for had been expended and to ask for \$500 for the ensuing year. He got it. Meanwhile he introduced a resolution at the annual meeting of the society in 1907 thanking the Governor of the Commonwealth, Curtis Guild, for his interest in matters pertaining to the public health especially by favoring the enactment of legislation

"for the establishment of health districts, the appointment of medical inspectors throughout the state, for compulsory notification and registration of tuberculosis and for the erection of three sanatoria for the treatment of tuberculosis."

The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House were included in this appreciatory resolution. At the same annual meeting in 1907 was held the first meeting of the Section of Tuberculosis with the following program: "Factory Inspection. — By Dr. F. G. Wheatley, North Abington; Health Inspectors; Their Function. — By Dr. Charles Harrington, Jamaica Plain; The Class Method for the Home Treatment of Consumption, with Demonstration of Cases, and Lantern Slides. — By Dr. J. H. Pratt, Boston; The Channels of Infection in Tuberculosis. — By Dr. Theobald Smith, Boston." Dr. Cabot was chairman of the section as he was in the succeeding years until 1913, when Dr. J. F. A. Adams of Pittsfield succeeded him. Dr. J. B. Hawes of Boston became corresponding secretary of the Section of Tuberculosis in 1910, secretary the next year and each year thereafter until 1919 when he was succeeded in the office of secretary by Dr. E. O. Otis of Boston. In that way the campaign against tuberculosis was carried on, at first by A. T. Cabot and afterwards by his assistant, Hawes, who prepared programs, stirred readers and discussers to activity, and provided stimuli through a series of years to advance the important movement which has resulted in improved care for the tuberculous and in diminishing the incidence and in lowering the mortality of that dread disease in Massachusetts.

The question of having an auxiliary committee, with a member from each district in the state, to assist the committee on state and national legislation in getting into touch with the senators and representatives for the purpose of furthering desirable legislation, and opposing bad legislation, was raised by the chairman of that committee, Dr. A. T. Cabot, at the meeting of the council



June 13, 1905; the auxiliary committee was enlarged by recommendation of the same standing committee, June 12, 1906, so that it should consist of one member from each senatorial district in the state. So it has remained since that time, the committee being of great assistance in keeping in touch with legislative matters concerning the public health. At this point it is worth while to copy the report of the committee on state and national legislation read to the council June 11, 1907, by Dr. G. G. Sears, the efficient secretary:

"During the past year the committee have appeared either in person or by representative before the Committee on Public Health advocating the passage of the following bills: For Labeling Patent and Proprietary Drugs and Foods; To Prohibit the Evasion of Vaccination Laws; To Regulate the Sale of Poisons; For Appointment of Medical Inspectors through the State; For Proper Sanitation of Factories; For the Transfer of Certain Powers from the District Police to the State Board of Health, and For Further Provision for the Care of Patients with Advanced Tuberculosis. They have opposed the bill to create a State Board of Osteopathic Examination and Registration. The Auxiliary Legislative Committee has proved of great service in reaching members of the Legislature."

In 1906 the committee had opposed antivaccination bills; at various times it had had the assistance of paid counsel. In 1905 the committee reported that they had employed Van Courtland Lawrence, Esq. — he who had assisted gratuitously in securing the passage of the bill for free antitoxin and vaccine —

"as counsel to watch and report on proposed legislation affecting the interests of medicine and the public health and have paid him \$100 for his services."

Every little while the matter of employing a lobbyist or a lawyer at the State House crops up in council meetings even at the present time, the argument being put forward each time that a professional agent can produce more and better results than amateurs, be they never so interested in their aims. It has been found, however, that little attention is paid to those who earn their living by acting as lobbyists on Beacon Hill; legislators are willing to listen to physicians who are altruists to the extent of leaving their practices long enough to favor legislation they think desirable.

The Massachusetts Medical Society was recorded in favor of requiring a degree in medicine of all candidates for registration in the state as early as 1905 although such a requirement did not appear in the registration law until 1917. The story has been the same since the beginning, repeated attempts to raise the standard,

generally crowned with success ultimately. It seems to be the best way to bring to attention what was going on as regards legislative matters in 1906 to quote a part of the report of the committee on state and national legislation for that year. Here it is:

"The committee asked for instructions regarding the bill to be presented by the Massachusetts Homeopathic Medical Society modifying the requirements for licenses to practice medicine and surgery in this state. Dr. E. B. Harvey read the provisions of the bill which is in two sections, the first of which provides for the granting of licenses to practice, by the Board of Registration in Medicine, without examination, to physicians who have been licensed in other states, where the requirements are substantially equivalent to those in force in this state. Regarding this section Dr. Harvey stated that the Massachusetts board of registration does not believe in the reciprocity implied therein, and will oppose its passage.

The second section provides that a candidate for registration shall be a graduate of a medical college in good standing, as may be determined by the Board. Dr. Harvey stated that a recommendation similar to this had been advocated by the Board of Registration in Medicine in a previous annual report.

*Voted*, That the Committee on State and National Legislation be instructed to appear before the Legislature in favor of requiring the degree of M.D. as a qualification for registration; but that it do not interest itself in the passage of the first section of the bill in question."

The establishment of the standing committee on medical education at the October meeting of the council in 1906 is a matter of considerable interest. It was started at the instance of A. T. Cabot, just as five years later he caused the standing committee on public health to spring into existence. At that meeting in October, 1906, he said that it was the wish of the American Medical Association that each state medical society should have a committee on medical education and he moved and it was voted to establish such a committee, the members to be appointed in the same manner as in the case of the other standing committees. E. H. Bradford, H. C. Ernst and H. D. Arnold were made the first committee by appointments *ad interim*. At the annual meeting in 1907 the committee became: H. C. Ernst, H. D. Arnold and C. H. Williams. Dr. Ernst remained chairman of this important committee until 1919, the committee having been combined with the committee on medical diplomas in 1913, when the by-laws were revised.

The committee on medical education began to function at once



and at the first annual meeting, in 1908, the chairman presented a long report with suggestions for improving the laws of Massachusetts as regards registration in medicine. Dr. Ernst then, as later, had appeared often at the State House in opposition to bad legislation, he had been professor of bacteriology in Harvard Medical School since 1895, he made a very favorable impression before legislative bodies; after the American Medical Association began its series of annual conferences on legislation and medical education at Chicago in February or March each year he generally attended and brought home a report to the council. In other words he was well fitted for his position and thought it of sufficient importance to devote a large amount of time to the duties of the office. In the first report of the committee on medical education to the council, June 9, 1908 attention was called to the unsatisfactory state of the registration law in our state; that Massachusetts, in common with thirteen other states and the District of Columbia, at that time made no requirements as to a preliminary education previous to a medical education; that this state with six others made no requirement of medical training previous to taking an examination for the right to practice medicine. Anyone who was twenty-one years of age, of good moral character, might be examined by the board of registration in medicine on paying a fee of twenty dollars. As regards the examination that was offered by the board the committee suggested that practical tests be added to the written examination so that candidates might show their familiarity with common laboratory methods as well as with the technique of many of the manipulations of medical practice. The committee was commended by the council in its efforts to improve the practice law and given authority to act as its representative and to give its encouragement to the board of registration, which had been handicapped in its previous efforts to have the law bettered. As a result of the agitation started by the committee on medical education the board of registration adopted a series of practical tests that have been a part of the examinations since 1912 when for the first time one of the three days of the examination was devoted to "oral and practical work." At the June meeting of the council in 1911 Dr. Ernst gave notice that his committee would report at length at the October meeting. Then they made the following recommendations as regards registration.



"1. The candidate for examination must present evidence satisfactory to the Board that he is a graduate from an approved medical school before he is accepted for examination.

2. The Board of Registration in Medicine should be granted power to determine what medical schools shall be classed as approved within the meaning of this law.

3. The Board should be given power to require that a candidate shall have had a suitable preliminary education before entering upon the study of medicine. If the Board shall decide that this preliminary education of any candidate has been inadequate it may refuse to examine him.

4. There shall be incorporated in the law a suitable definition of the term 'Practice of medicine.'"

The four recommendations were adopted by the council and the committee instructed to draft bills incorporating them for submission to the legislature. At the present time the law requires that a candidate shall be twenty-one years of age, of good moral character and shall

"have received a degree of doctor of medicine, or its equivalent, from a legally chartered medical school having the power to confer degrees in medicine which gives a full four years' course of instruction of not less than thirty-six weeks in each year."

The remaining recommendations of the committee are still to be put into the law, if it can be done. We may note here that the board of registration in medicine has been charged with the examination and registering of osteopathic practitioners since 1909 and in the last four years it has directed the examination of chiroprodists. In the reorganization and consolidation of commissions in 1920 this board was placed in the Department of Civil Service and Registration under the Division of Registration and the membership of the board has undergone several changes. Even today the law contains the original provision of 1894, when a registration law was first put on the statute books in this state, that of the board of seven members

"no more than three members thereof shall at one time be members of any one chartered state medical society."

At the present time the Massachusetts Medical Society has about 4000 members, the Homeopathic Medical Society about four hundred and the Eclectic Medical Society, at last accounts, about fifty. Although the wording of the act gives the impression of fairness to all, as a matter of fact it limits materially the available well-educated physicians of the state for places on the board. For two



years attempts have been made to have this provision rescinded, but without avail. A further limitation is the provision that "no member of said board shall belong to the faculty of any medical college or university," when it is well known that many of the ablest men in medicine as it touches the public are connected with the universities. The only hope for the State is in the fact that since 1915 a degree in medicine has been required of candidates for registration, due very largely to the unceasing efforts of Dr. W. P. Bowers. Possibly the lawmakers may see the wisdom of defining what medical colleges shall provide acceptable degrees and thus protect the public through the quality of the medical diploma possessed by its practitioner of medicine, rather than by the examinations given by its board of registration. Progress in Massachusetts in this direction has been always slow.

During this first decade of the twentieth century many matters of greater or less interest occupied the attention of the society. Among them were: a revision of the by-laws in 1906; a discussion of medical expert testimony in the courts; the formulation of a malpractice act for the protection of the fellows; an attempt by the American Medical Association to form branches of that association throughout the United States, the North Atlantic Branch to consist of the New England States and the States of New York and New Jersey; the placing of the care of the insane of Boston under the State rather than, as previously, under the City of Boston; the Governor urged to reappoint Dr. E. B. Harvey to membership on the board of registration in medicine and remonstrance against combining with this board the registration of pharmacists, dentists and practitioners of veterinary medicine; the prevalence of ophthalmia neonatorum in Massachusetts, and contract work in medicine, a knotty problem causing strong differences of opinion. Toward the end of this period Dr. F. W. Goss, for thirty-four years in the secretary's office, felt that he must resign and the society lost his valuable services.

The 1906 revision of the by-laws was not an important one as no complete recasting was attempted, only a few changes being made in the laws of 1897. One important matter, however, was the determination of the ratio of the number of councilors to be elected by the district societies. A circular letter was sent to the eighteen districts and as a result of the answers received the ratio of one councilor to every twenty active and retired fellows was established as the proper proportion — a ratio which has persisted

to this day notwithstanding the steady increase in the number of fellows. In this connection a vote was passed, at the instance of Dr. D. D. Gilbert, at the annual meeting in 1908, that the members of the standing committees be invited to attend the meetings of the council as guests, as their duties were intimately connected with the work of the council. This action was reflected in a proposition of President Alfred Worcester in recent time, during the first year he held office and again in his second year, that the members of the standing committees be councilors by virtue of their office, instead of the chairman alone of each of the standing committees. The invitations which were extended to the members of these committees in 1908 and subsequently brought few to the council meetings; later the chairmen were invited and not many came; finally in 1913 the chairmen were made councilors and they could be depended on to attend meetings. In recent years a council of two hundred and nine members is almost too large and unwieldy to function properly. It has contained for the past nine years not only the officers of the society but the president of each district society and the chairman of each of the seven standing committees, in addition to the councilors elected by the district societies, in the proportion of one councilor to every twenty fellows. The plan to have each district society represented on the floor of the council by the president of the district society has worked well in practice; some districts are represented regularly by their secretaries as well. The chairman of a standing committee is present to report or to answer questions for his committee; if he is a real chairman, who understands his duty and is proud to exercise it, such a presence in the deliberative councils works out satisfactorily in a scheme of representative government.

It had long been noticeable that medical experts in the courts were inclined to prostitute themselves in their capacity of unbiased witnesses and recorders of scientific facts, becoming partisans of those who employed them, when Dr. D. D. Gilbert of Dorchester drew the attention of the council at the annual meeting in 1907 to a paper on this subject read to the Norfolk District society by the Hon. Louis C. Southard, of the Boston Bar. On Dr. Gilbert's motion it was moved and voted that the matter of reform in the giving of medical expert testimony be referred to the committee on state and national legislation to take such action as they might think best. The committee reported in February, 1908, that in their opinion it was useless to attempt any reform by legislative



enactment without the aid of the legal profession. They had held conferences therefore with prominent lawyers and judges, and as a result, a committee had been appointed by the Bar Association that had acted in coöperation with the committee of the society; a bill had been drawn and introduced into the legislature, on petition signed by the lawyers and physicians interested, giving power to the court, under certain conditions, to appoint a medical expert whose compensation should come from the county, without depriving either party to an action of the right to summon additional expert medical witnesses. In June of 1908 the committee on state and national legislation reported that they had advocated the bill before a committee of the legislature but that the proponents had been given leave to withdraw. Nothing further was done in the matter until Dr. G. W. Gay spoke of the partisan character of the testimony of some experts in the courts at the October meeting of the council in 1910, asking the secretary to call the attention of the fellows to this matter and requesting them, through a vote of the council, to notify the committee on ethics and discipline of any departure from ethical standards that they might observe on the part of physicians testifying in court. Undoubtedly the discussion and publicity had a beneficial effect although no cases of misbehaviour were reported to the committee on ethics. A bill giving the judge the common law power to charge the jury upon medical expert evidence failed of enactment in 1910 although advocated by the society.

In the chapter on Malpractice Defence the story has been told how the act was drawn and put into effect in June, 1908, also notes made on the working of that rule of the society in the intervening years.

We find this entry in the council record for October 2, 1907:

"Attention was called to the request of the American Medical Association that the society take action regarding the establishment of branch associations of the American Medical Association, the North Atlantic Branch to consist of the state medical societies of the New England states and of New York and New Jersey."

The committee on state and national legislation to which the request of the national association was referred reported in February, 1908, that it was the unanimous opinion of that committee that it was inexpedient to take any action towards the formation of such a branch. Nothing more was heard of the proposition here.

It was at this same meeting of the council that on the motion of H. D. Arnold it was voted to urge Governor Curtis Guild, Jr. to reappoint Dr. E. B. Harvey to the board of registration in medicine,

“recognizing his discreet and successful management of the important affairs of the board of registration in medicine, as conducted by its secretary, and the value of his experience to the Commonwealth in all matters relating to medical legislation.”

It is to be borne in mind that Dr. Harvey had held the position of secretary and executive officer of the board for twelve years; he had made the board what it was, his predecessor in office, Dr. E. J. Forster, the first secretary of the board, having held office for less than a year. Those who realize the inertia that had to be overcome to establish any system of registration in Massachusetts, a state where freedom of action in matters medical had come down from the past, — where in the opinion of the average legislator a Christian Science practitioner was the equal of a man who had had years of scientific training in medicine, — will appreciate the skilful and tactful work that must have been done by Dr. Harvey during those twelve years in order that the public might become accustomed to the idea of registering those who are to take charge of the health of the citizens. This is not the place to take up the subsequent history of the board of registration. Enough to say that the Massachusetts Medical Society fought constantly to prevent the registration of osteopaths, — and was unsuccessful, for they were turned over to that board for registration in 1909; also against having pharmacists, dentists and practitioners of veterinary medicine classed with physicians for registration, — in this successful until the reorganization of the commissions of the state in 1920 when all departments of registration were grouped under one head. Chiropodists have been registered under the supervision of members of the board since 1918. Why the board of bar examiners should be an independent board under no supervision and the board of registration in medicine, under the new arrangement, should be grouped with osteopathy, chiropody, pharmacy, dentistry and veterinary medicine is difficult to understand, except that it is a piece of the old misunderstanding of the function of medicine that has for so long obtained in this commonwealth. When a legislature makes violent efforts to pass a bill for the benefit of one man, for instance a Chinese herb doctor of no education whatever but with an

engaging manner, what can be expected? Small wonder the osteopaths have made the progress they have and that the chiropractors are always close to registration. To the legislator it is an evidence of freedom, to go it blind and to choose a physician from his sign on the door or from the advertisements in the papers.

The transferring of the insane of Boston, situated for many years in Pierce and Austin farms at Dorchester, to the supervision of the State was brought about partly, at least, by the advice of the State society. In February, 1908, Dr. Henry R. Stedman, one of our leading alienists, made the following motion at the council meeting:

*"Voted, That the council of the Massachusetts Medical Society believing that the best interests of the insane of the Commonwealth demand that the insane of Boston be placed under the care and supervision of the State, strongly advocate the measures now being taken to secure legislation to that end; and further that the council recommends the establishment of observation hospitals in the large cities of the State, and refers the matter to the committee on state and national legislation to put this vote into practical effect."*

The bill for the state care of the insane was passed that year. Since then we have seen the splendid development of the Boston State Hospital under the charge of an able board of trustees, the medical profession being represented on that board, and all of the insane and the institutions for the mentally diseased of the state under the supervision of the Department of Mental Diseases with a commissioner at its head. The second suggestion bore fruit in the Psychopathic Hospital at 74 Fenwood Road, Roxbury, authorized by the legislature in 1909 and first opened for patients in 1912. Today this hospital has been dissociated from the Boston State Hospital, has an independent existence under the department of mental diseases, and fills a most important place in the community, for a large majority of the doubtful cases of mental disease find their way there, receiving most thorough examination and testing before they are committed to a mental hospital. Only those who have been behind the scenes in the diagnosis of insanity will realize the importance of this step to the community. Similar observation hospitals have been planned for other districts of the state.

The question of the ethics of so-called contract work — physicians making contracts with commercial organizations or clubs and societies to care for their employees or members at a yearly rate of compensation — came much to the fore in 1908 when a petition was received at the June meeting of the council from the Essex



North District requesting that action be taken on this subject and a similar petition from the Norfolk South District. A committee of three, consisting of W. A. Dolan of Fall River, J. A. Gage of Lowell and C. E. Durant of Haverhill was appointed to consider contract work. At the February meeting in 1909 the committee was enlarged by the addition of A. E. Paine of Brockton and J. W. Spooner of Hingham, and in June of that year it reported through Dr. Dolan, chairman, to the effect that the evil was so great that the by-laws of the society ought to be revised so that applicants for fellowship who did contract work should be ineligible for membership and those fellows who were already engaged in it should be forbidden to continue such work. He presented proposed amendments to the by-laws for these purposes. Dr. J. A. Gage presented a minority report in which the subject was discussed from many angles; instead of forbidding fellows from engaging in such work the minority advised appointing a committee to call a conference with the state leaders of the fraternal orders and lodges and to demand that an equitable basis be established for adjusting the matter of the medical care of their members. After a so-called "animated discussion" the minority report was adopted and both reports ordered to be printed. The pamphlet was in demand for several years afterwards, being sent for from outside the state on several occasions, so well did the medical public consider that the question had been handled. A discussion was opened again at the October meeting of the council and finally, on a motion of Dr. Harvey, it was indefinitely postponed. So far as known no conference was held with the fraternal orders and interest died down.

Ophthalmia neonatorum was prevalent in Massachusetts in 1908. Dr. Oliver F. Wadsworth, professor of ophthalmology in Harvard Medical School, called attention to the fact at the June meeting of the council. At his suggestion a committee of five was appointed to consider how best to combat the disease. The committee was: O. F. Wadsworth, E. T. Easton, David Harrower and J. W. Bartol. In February, 1909, the committee reported that it had prepared a circular defining what measures should be taken to prevent the occurrence of ophthalmia neonatorum and to secure its prompt and effective cure; the chairman asked for authority to distribute a copy of the circular to every fellow and for extra copies to be given to nurses and patients. The request was granted. In 1911 the committee on ethics and discipline received information through

the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind that six fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society had been derelict in their duties either in not complying with the laws of the state, which required prompt notification to the local board of health of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, or had been negligent in not promptly treating cases of this disease. On recommendation of this committee the six fellows were admonished by the president of the society that their conduct in specific cases referred to had been called in question and were on file for use should similar evidences of carelessness be repeated. Two years later six more fellows were admonished for similar lapses, on evidence furnished from the same source. At this time Dr. F. E. Cheney, ophthalmologist, submitted through the committee on state and national legislation, two recommendations for changes in the state laws as regards ophthalmia, later to be embodied in legislation.

One matter of interest to the student of the evolution of a medical society was the manner in which the committee on membership and finance determined by what steps a fellow who had resigned might regain his membership in the society. A case in point came up at the October meeting of the council in 1908, when Dr. Goss was chairman of this committee. A fellow had resigned in 1898 and asked to be readmitted. The query arose whether the council had the right to admit him by vote, as it had done in the past. The committee employed legal counsel and ruled, being supported by the council, that when once out a fellow was in the same position as any candidate for fellowship and came under the provisions of the act of the legislature with reference to the society, passed in 1859, by which no one might become a fellow except after examination by the censors. Therefore a resigned fellow must appear before the censors and show them that he still possesses the qualifications that are required in the by-laws, before he may be readmitted to fellowship.

The Hagen Bürger affair was one that stirred the society to its depths in this eventful year of 1908, especially after the finding of the board of trial, when the younger element felt that the old society had failed to realize the turpitude of said Hagen Bürger and to rid itself of his, to them, undesirable fellowship. This is the story: In November, 1904, one Gottfried Leonhard Hagen Bürger applied to the censors of the Suffolk District for fellowship in the society, presenting a diploma from Queen's University, Faculty of Medicine, Kingston, Ontario, and passing a satisfactory



examination. According to the record of the meeting of the committee on ethics and discipline, held on January 8, 1908, complaints were made by Dr. S. D. Van Meter, secretary of the State Board of Medical Examiners of Colorado and by Dr. Hugh Cabot of Boston that evidence had been submitted by Dr. Van Meter, in the columns of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, February 3, 1906, and by the authorities of Queen's University, that Dr. Hagen Bürger had presented to the state boards of medical examiners of Montana and Colorado a forged diploma in medicine purporting to have been conferred on him by the University of Kiel, Germany; that in consequence of their investigations Queen's University had cancelled the degrees of M.D. and C. M. which they had conferred on Hagen Bürger by reason of his holding a degree from Kiel and from their examinations given him, on account of the fraudulent character of the diploma. This was in December, 1906, the matter having been published in the *Queen's Medical Quarterly* in January, 1907. In view of these facts, if they were facts, Hagen Bürger had no valid degree in medicine and should not be retained in membership in the society. Another meeting of the committee on ethics was held, January 15, 1908, at which Dr. Cabot appeared by request, to reiterate the statements already made, the documents were gone over carefully and the secretary empowered to obtain an affidavit from Kiel University and further evidence in the case, if possible. On November 25 the committee had received a deposition from Dr. Quincke, dean of the medical faculty of Kiel University, stating that no such person as Hagen Bürger had ever been a student at that university and that therefore no diploma had been issued to him; also affidavits from Dr. W. C. Riddell and Dr. T. J. Murray, members of the Montana board of registration in 1898, when Hagen Bürger had applied for a license to practice in that state, and from Dr. S. D. Van Meter, secretary of the Colorado board in 1902, that Hagen Bürger had presented to them a forged diploma from Kiel. Formal charges were made against him by the committee on ethics to the president according to the rules of the society in such cases, alleging

"conduct unworthy of an honorable physician and with presenting a false certificate and false statements of educational acquirements."

The president, Silas D. Presbrey of Taunton, appointed a board of trial, under the terms of the by-laws, consisting of the following



men: C. A. Drew, Plymouth, Chairman; J. F. Young, Essex North; C. S. Holden, Bristol North; M. V. Pierce, Norfolk; E. V. Scribner, Worcester. The board met on December 23, 1908, heard Dr. J. W. Bartol, who acted as prosecuting officer for the committee on ethics, Dr. L. R. G. Crandon of Boston, who conducted the case for Hagen Bürger, also Hagen Bürger himself and his wife. The different documents already referred to were submitted in evidence, and in addition a reproduction of a diploma issued to one Otto Tretow by the University of Kiel, dated January 15, 1896, the same date as Hagen Bürger's, the title of the dissertation being identical with that on the diploma offered by Hagen Bürger, namely: two cases of congenital dislocation of the lens of the eye. The diploma showed "special type, a large white impress seal and the dean's signature in Latin script," while the diploma submitted by Hagen Bürger was an exact duplicate of Tretow's except for Hagen Bürger's name and different paper, type, printing, seal and signatures. The dean of the University of Kiel, who certified to the genuineness of Tretow's diploma, explained how fraudulent copies might have been obtained. Evidence was put in that a Dr. A. E. Runge, had issued Hagen Bürger's diploma to him in Kiel, and that said Runge was then in prison for forging public documents. Hagen Bürger was unable to produce a copy of his thesis, which was on the exact subject of Tretow's thesis, claiming that the subject had been assigned to him by Runge and that the thesis had been left in Kiel; it had been worked up while he, Hagen Bürger, lived in Berlin, as he was told that it was not necessary for him to stay in Kiel. Queen's University had sent their Professor Patchett to Kiel and he had interviewed Professor Heller, at that time dean of the Kiel University faculty of medicine; on his investigations they had founded their action in withdrawing Hagen Bürger's degrees. Hagen Bürger said he had endeavored to interview Professor Heller and to trace Runge, without success; he made no attempt to find Otto Tretow, although informed where he lived by Dr. Van Meter and by the American Consul; could give no explanation why of two diplomas issued on the same day both should have theses inscribed on them with identical titles.

The trial, according to the minutes in the record book, lasted four hours and a half; the record occupied sixteen pages. The board of trial in secret session after the hearing had been closed made the following finding:

"We do find that the charges against the said Hagen Bürger are not proved, and we recommend to the Society that it take no action thereon."

The signatures of the five members of the board of trial were affixed to the finding, and attested by the secretary of the society, who acts as secretary of the board, under the terms of the by-laws.

When this decision of the board of trial was submitted to the annual meeting of the society, June 15, 1909, it excited a lively discussion participated in by ten different fellows. A motion by Dr. E. B. Harvey that the action by the board be approved was lost. Subsequently Hagen Bürger remained a fellow until October 6, 1915, when he was deprived of the privileges of fellowship for non-payment of dues, under the provisions of Section 8 of Chapter I of the by-laws, at that time being ill and in Havana, Cuba. Several times in the years immediately following 1909 attempts were made to revive charges against him. The counsel of the society, Mr. Arthur D. Hill, was of the opinion that having been tried once it was inadvisable from a legal point of view to have another trial. In recent years Hagen Bürger has had a residence in Brookline, Mass., with an office in Boston, and his wife has questioned whether he might not petition the council that he be restored to fellowship. Thus far no petition has been filed.

The combined effect of the contract work discussion and the Hagen Bürger case was to disseminate a good deal of dissatisfaction throughout the society with the manner in which ethical standards were maintained. Similar waves have swept over the organization from time to time during its long life.

At the annual meeting in June, 1909, the president read obituaries of F. W. Draper, who had done so much for the society, and of F. I. Knight, the eminent laryngologist, and C. B. Porter, the surgeon, all councilors. He read also a letter of resignation from F. W. Goss, as secretary and the following vote was placed in the record:

"In view of thirty-four years of service rendered to the Massachusetts Medical Society by the retiring secretary, Francis Webster Goss, the Council wishes to express its appreciation of his work.

Dr. Goss has served the Society not only long, but also intelligently and faithfully. His careful and punctual attention to the details of his office has expedited the meetings of the Council and facilitated the work of its committees. His knowledge of and loyalty to the traditions and aims of the Society have made him a valuable adviser and guide.

The Council hereby acknowledges its obligations and expresses its gratitude to him."

Dr. Goss gave most loyal and kindly assistance to his successor in office, — especially when the new secretary was suffering from a broken thigh at the close of his first year in office. Goss was elected vice-president of the society in 1912 and continued as chairman of the important committee on membership and finance until 1914, when he moved to Sacramento, California. A brief biography and Dr. Goss's reminiscences of the presidents he had served with will be found at the end of the chapter.

In the next succeeding years many matters of minor interest are to be recorded, many of them perfecting the machinery for running the society. One was a rule made in 1909, through the suggestion of the committee on publications, that the annual discourse should be the property of the society; previous to the passage of the revised by-laws in 1913 a complete set of rules governing the papers and discussions of the annual meeting was prepared and made a part of the organic law. In this way it was determined that the papers were to be ready for the printer when read and to be turned over to the secretary for publication immediately after being read; their length was limited to twenty minutes in delivery and the discussions to five minutes; the sections established to consider the different branches of medicine were to elect their own officers for the succeeding year so that these officers might go to work at once and prepare a program for the following annual meeting. Such an arrangement was a great step in advance and did away with scratch programs. Each set of officers tried to get the best possible program for their section. The average of the papers was improved, and has continued to improve under this system. In other words a scheme for adequate preparation was put into force in the department of scientific papers. The early planning of the details of the annual meeting had been operative for a long time, with satisfactory results; the final rules for the election of the officers of the sections were adopted on motion of Dr. E. W. Taylor at the council meeting on February 1, 1911, Taylor having been chairman of a special committee appointed at the last meeting to consider the matter. He had been a member of the standing committee to procure scientific papers and in June of that year was appointed a member of the committee on publications, one of the oldest of the standing committees, a committee he heads at the present time.

An important vote was passed in October, 1909, at the instance of the committee on publications, for at this time the old standing



committee had not been joined to the committee to procure scientific papers, that being done at the revision of the by-laws in 1913. This vote was:

"That all extraordinary expenditures be referred to the committee on membership and finance, before they are presented to the council for action."

In the later by-laws it was provided that any request for an extra-ordinary appropriation should be referred to this committee, that the president should decide what constituted an extraordinary appropriation and that the committee should make a recommendation to the council regarding the request that had been submitted to it. The reason for making such a provision was that a councilor might rise in his place and ask for an appropriation for a subject he thought to be of importance; if he was a persuasive speaker the council, having no clear idea of the state of the society's finances, was inclined to grant such a request offhand and thereby cripple the treasury. There had been several instances of this in the recent past when the vote was passed. The provision has worked well in practice ever since and no appropriation that had not been duly considered by the committee on membership and finance has been voted by the council.

## BIOGRAPHIES

FRANCIS WEBSTER GOSS (1842— ), recording secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1875 to 1906 and secretary for three years more, a total service of thirty-four years, is a native of Salem where he was born July 3, 1842. His parents were Ezekiel and Almira Dwelley Hatch Goss of that city. Dr. Goss was educated at the Salem Classical and High School, being especially fortunate, as he says, in being under the instruction of Gordon Bartlet (Harvard, 1853), the associate principal, "a gentleman, scholar and wonderful linguist." After taking his A.B. at Harvard in 1862 Dr. Goss went to Troy, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, where he was principal of the academy for six months. From there he went to the Choules Institute in Newport, Rhode Island. There he succeeded his college chum Albert E. Davis as assistant in the school named for Rev. John Overton Choules, eminent Baptist divine and friend of Daniel Webster. For two years and a half he held this position, during the last year beginning the study of medicine under Mr. George Engs, a graduate of Yale in the academic department in 1860 and of the medical department of Columbia in 1863, special attention being given to anatomy and the use of the microscope, then a comparatively new instrument in medicine. Harvard College conferred the degree of A.M. on Dr. Goss the year he began work as a student in Harvard Medical School. From the spring of 1868 to the spring of 1869 he served as medical house officer at the Boston City Hospital, and receiving his M.D. in 1869, settled in practice in Roxbury,

having joined the state medical society. He married Maria L. Draper of Salem who died in 1875. Three years later he married Mrs. Helen L. Young of Boston who died in 1914 leaving him a daughter with whom he now lives in Sacramento, California. Dr. Goss practised in Roxbury from 1869 until removing to California in 1914. He had been in practice only six years and was thirty-three years old when he was called to the secretaryship of the state society, bringing to the office an unusual training and ability. Absolutely reliable and dependable in his attention to the varied duties of the position his record of attendance for the thirty-four years he was in office was extraordinary for he missed not a single one of the 102 meetings of the council and 38 meetings of the society, both regular and adjourned, during all that time. What fidelity to duty. In the years 1912 and 1913 he filled the office of vice-president of the society and from 1896 to 1914 he was a member of the important standing committee on membership and finance, being chairman for the last eight years of that period. Besides the work done to keep the membership affairs of the society in proper order he was a careful guardian of the finances. No one who has not been behind the scenes can realize the amount of time and thought that can be spent to advantage on the duties of his office by the chairman of this committee. Dr. Goss did not spare himself.

Dr. Goss's reminiscences of the different presidents under whom he served, kindly sent from California, are appended.

## REMINISCENCES OF EIGHTEEN PRESIDENTS BY DR. F. W. GOSS

### I

"My work as Secretary of the Society began with the second year of Dr. B. E. Cotting's administration. It is due to him that I was appointed to the office. I was never more surprised than when he knocked at my window in Roxbury where I was living next door to him and saluted me as Secretary. I had never dreamed of being in that position. Of course I was guided by him in my duties. He ruled the Society, for he was never willing to be subordinate to any one, and yet it was for the Society's good. His especial work as president was initiating the visiting every year the district medical societies. He planned it so that he could visit those in various sections of the State on successive days. I doubt if any other president spent so much time and money for the Society as he. It was his life work to care for the Massachusetts Medical Society, and he never would suffer a word to be uttered to its detriment.

### II

Dr. William Cogswell of Bradford succeeded Dr. Cotting. He was a robust, strong man who had had experience as Surgeon in the Civil War and was earnest in his work as President. He could make a ruling and stick to it and usually his decisions were right. My relations with him were very pleasant.

### III

Dr. G. H. Lyman was efficient as President and had the esteem of the members of the Society. At the annual meeting in 1879 papers by members of the Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society were read as a part of the programme.

## IV

Dr. H. W. Williams was President 1880-1882. In 1881 occurred the Centennial of the Society. On the first day various institutions in Boston and vicinity were open to the Fellows and Dr. S. A. Green delivered the Centennial address in Sanders Theatre at Cambridge. Dr. Williams received members at his house in the evening.

On the second day, during the annual dinner, Dr. Holmes read his Centennial poem. There was given to every member of the Society a copy of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* which contained a silhouette portrait of Dr. E. A. Holyoke, the first President of the Society, and a fac-simile of the toast offered by him at a dinner given to him in Salem on his 100th. birthday, August 13, 1828; and various other documents.

My relations with Dr. Williams were extremely pleasant. He was always very cordial and gave me good advice. He was a good presiding officer and had the Society's welfare at heart. Quiet, yet firm and determined, he had a very successful administration.

## V

Dr. Alfred Hosmer was an energetic and efficient President. He gave great attention to the district societies, saw to it that they should perform their duties in accordance with the By-Laws of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and in the programmes of 1883 and 1884 he had memoranda printed regarding the duties of the Censors and the Secretaries of the district societies. These memoranda were deduced from an examination of the By-Laws of each of the district societies. They involved much work, as I think the letter book of the period will show.

My relations with him were harmonious and his memory is revered by me.

## VI

Dr. C. D. Homans I loved. I had served a month under him as house officer on the surgical side of the Boston City Hospital previous to my appointment as medical house-officer in 1869-70 in that institution. He often referred to it and called me his son and offered me advice which I was only too glad to receive. He presided with dignity, suavity and yet with firmness. He had knotty questions to deal with, but always was right in his decisions.

His memory is very precious to me.

## VII

Dr. T. H. Gage I found a firm friend. I greatly admired his presence and work. Coming from Worcester, the first President from that city for many years, he was a worthy representative from the centre of the State.

He was very affable and presided with dignity and precision.

## VIII

Dr. D. W. Cheever was a successful President of the Massachusetts Medical Society. At the meetings of the Society he instituted the custom of having



prepared discussions of the papers read on Tuesday, and the Shattuck Lectures were established during his regime.

## IX

Dr. A. H. Johnson I greatly esteemed as a friend. He was a gentleman of refinement and truly loyal to the Society. He presided with dignity and fairness.

I shall never forget the pleasant receptions I had at Salem when I went to consult with him regarding the work of the Society.

## X

Dr. J. C. White was the last of the trio of the class of 1853 at Harvard, comprised of Drs. Hosmer, Johnson and White. He was successful as a presiding officer and maintained the dignity of the Society.

## XI

Dr. F. K. Paddock was a man for whom I had great respect. Coming from the extreme western part of the State he had, I am sure, the good will of all the members of the Society. He was very courteous to me and I enjoyed service under him. He had been the Orator in 1885, delivering a discourse on Antiseptic Surgery.

I remember his urbanity and his success as president.

## XII

I seldom saw Dr. H. P. Walcott, except on business for the Society.

During his Presidency the censors' examination of candidates in November and May were established.

## XIII

Dr. E. B. Harvey was a politician and used the arts of one in presiding and in his other acts. Not that he was unjust, but he strained his points in presiding and elsewhere to that end. He was said to be harsh, but he was certainly just and had the respect of the community in which he resided.

My work with him was pleasant and I appreciated his good qualities, which were many.

## XIV

Dr. F. W. Draper was a dear friend. We were at the Medical School and the Boston City Hospital together. He was my immediate predecessor as Secretary and in the beginning of my work in that office his assistance was very valuable. One will find his records as Secretary models of accuracy and neatness. We worked together in perfect harmony and we remained close friends until his death.

## XV

Dr. G. E. Francis had, previous to his presidency, been the efficient chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Discipline. He was faithful in his work and carried on the Society with vigor and discretion.

I enjoyed my service under him and shall never forget the happy time I spent in Worcester as his guest.

His memory is very dear to me.

## XVI

Dr. A. T. Cabot was a conscientious, painstaking president. He had a high sense of the duties of his office which he successfully fulfilled.

Among the incidents of his second year was the dedication of the new buildings for the Harvard Medical School on Longwood Avenue, with various demonstrations there.

## XVII

Dr. G. W. Gay is an intimate friend of mine. Early in his administration the American Medical Association met in Boston. He originated and has continued his interest in the Malpractice Defense Act, which has successfully defended many members of the Society in suits for malpractice.

His administration was highly successful and he still is an active Fellow doing useful work for the Society.

## XVIII

Dr. S. D. Presbrey was a whole-souled president. He cared faithfully for the Society, doing much to lessen unnecessary expenditure. Toward the close of his first year I informed him that I had decided to resign as secretary. He begged me not to do so and said that the resignation should never be known if I would withdraw it, but I persisted.

I was very fond of him.

(Signed).

F. W. Goss."

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ARTHUR TRACY CABOT<sup>1</sup> (1852-1912) was born in Boston, January 25, 1852, third son of Dr. Samuel and Hannah Jackson Cabot of Boston.

Cabot had a stub-twist ancestry, Scotch, Irish, English, Norman French (Chabot, Isle of Jersey) blood mingling in his veins. In him the contrasted qualities of his parents were harmoniously united to a remarkable degree. Ardent and impulsive, he was yet rationally cautious. He valued the opinion of others and weighed it, but reached his own conclusions which were nearly always sound, and then fearlessly followed. If he was or seemed prejudiced, the cause was apt to lie in his hatred of injustice and moral obliquity. No form of apparent self-interest ever swayed his decision.

He took his A.B. at Harvard in 1872, his M.D. in 1876, and served a year as surgical interne at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He then went abroad, giving special attention to surgical pathology, but neglecting no opportunity of laying a firm foundation in all pertaining to the healing art.

So many-sided was his life that clearness and justice alike seemed to warrant separate treatment of the man, the surgeon, and the public servant.

Of Arthur Cabot, the man, I have already spoken somewhat; it remains to add that it is hard to think of a manly outdoor sport which he did not enjoy and enter into as far as he could without neglect of duty. Exercise in the saddle, riding to hounds, polo, fishing and shooting, yachting, golf, tennis, and squash. Of art he had a deep love and appreciation, collecting a few very

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviated from the biography by Dr. F. C. Shattuck in "American Medical Biographies."

choice pictures without the aid of experts, so-called. He sketched in water colors, was an active trustee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and officially concerned with the Fogg Art Museum at Cambridge. His diversified interests, elevation of character, and real warmth of heart made him more and more sought after socially. A certain grimness of manner wore smooth in later life, unless stimulated by contact with what he deemed unworthy.

Cabot's training for professional life antedates the general adoption of Listerism, i.e., clean surgery, an outgrowth of the work of the great Pasteur. His interest in surgical pathology has been mentioned. After his father's death, he and his brother, Samuel, founded at the Massachusetts General Hospital the Samuel Cabot Fund for Pathological Research. The income of this fund provides that a pathologist be on hand operating days at the hospital, and make such examination as the surgeon may require to determine the scope and character of his operation. If not the first, it was surely an early effort to make thorough pathological study go hand in hand with the operation. In London he heard Lister's inaugural address at King's College, and ever after kept on the crest of the advancing wave of clean surgery. On his return, in 1877, he took up general practice. The experience thus gained can be safely said to have harmed him neither as a man nor as a surgeon. Without this developmental training it may be well questioned whether he would have been able to perform the great public service of his later years, of which more below.

Increasing surgical work at the Carney, Children's, and Massachusetts General Hospitals successively compelled him, after about ten years, to confine himself to surgery. He was visiting surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital from 1886 to 1907. Dr. Henry J. Bigelow early recognized Cabot's quality and made him his heir in bladder surgery.

It appears that Cabot did the first successful abdominal operation within the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1884 on a case of strangulated umbilical hernia. He had assisted his father in 1874 and 1875 in two abdominal operations on hospital patients, though not within the hospital walls. He became the leading genito-urinary surgeon in New England, while second to none anywhere. He always remained a general surgeon. As a general surgeon he was eminent; as a genito-urinary surgeon preëminent.

From 1885 to 1896 he was clinical instructor, and then instructor in genito-urinary surgery, in the Harvard Medical School, and would undoubtedly have gone to the top on his merits had he not been chosen Fellow of the University in 1896. The President and Fellows of Harvard, generally known as the Corporation, are seven in number, including the President and Treasurer *ex officio*. They may be roughly compared to the United States Senate; the Overseers, elected by the Alumni for six year terms being the House. All important academic questions need concurrent action by the two governing boards, but the management of the funds rests entirely and much of the initiative lies in the hands of the Corporation. The varied interests and the responsibility involved, the wisdom and devotion required go without saying. He was president of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1905 and 1906, and did much to excite the active interest and participation of the profession in the crusade against tuberculosis. He was appointed in 1907, by Governor Guild, a trustee of the State Hospitals for Consumptives, was elected chairman, and threw himself heart and soul into the work. Three hospitals were admirably built and



equipped on wisely selected sites within the appropriation, at a cost of about seven hundred dollars a bed. His interest was enlisted in school hygiene. He was associated in the Congress of School Hygiene in London in 1907, was a prime mover in the organization of the American School Hygiene Association in 1908, and in the holding of the fourth Congress in Buffalo in 1913, serving as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Arrangements. His modesty was on a par with his efficiency and devotion. In 1910 he retired from all practice that he might give himself up to wider activities. During thirty years he published over one hundred and twenty papers, the last, in the *Atlantic Monthly* for November, 1912, a plea for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in childhood. He was a prized member of many medical societies and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

This is a meagre account of the life of one foremost as a man, a surgeon, a citizen. In each capacity *totus, teres atque rotundus*. A rarely balanced youth was trained professionally before scientific progress had made it high inconceivable that an active surgeon should lay aside his knife for the kind and quality of work to which Cabot's last years were devoted. He died November 4, 1912, leaving a widow, Susan, daughter of the late George O. Shattuck, and a memory, sweet to his friends, stamped on a grateful community.

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EDWIN HOWARD BRIGHAM (1840— ), librarian of the Massachusetts Medical Society for thirty-seven years, was born in Boston, September 27, 1840. He was the son of Elijah Sparhawk and Sarah Jane Brigham. The original Brigham immigrant came to Boston in 1630 with eleven sons and later settled in Watertown. Captain Elijah Brigham, Edwin's grandfather, was a dealer in cattle during the war of 1812; after the war he settled in Boston where he kept the Black Horse Tavern in Union Street. The father, a versatile man, a writer and speaker of ability, was a convert to Grahamism, the vegetarian cult which advocated the use of unbolted ("Graham") flour. He opened a Grahamite boarding house in Hayward Place where Dr. Brigham was born. On the failure of this venture the father moved to Newton Lower Falls and thence to Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York. When he came to anchor in Salem, Mass., young Brigham attended school while living on Federal Street, becoming familiar with the contents of the East India Museum and imbued with the traditions of the old town. Early in 1851 the family moved to New York where they occupied houses in Bloomingdale and other parts of the city, the father being engaged at that time in the manufacture of ornamental iron work for gardens.

Returning to Massachusetts young Brigham enlisted in Company A. 13th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, saw service at the second battle of Bull Run, was taken prisoner and paroled in September, 1862. Twenty years later he wrote an account of his experiences at that battle for "Bivouac, an Independent Military Magazine." When he reached Boston, in the fall of 1862, on a furlough from Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, his health was much impaired from chronic diarrhea. He entered the Mason General Hospital in Pemberton Square as a patient and shortly as his health improved was given the position of clerk to Surgeon A. N. McLaren, in charge of the medical department of Boston, with an office on Sudbury Street.

Here Brigham looked out for the office, wrote the records and, incidentally, made his first acquaintance with a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in the person of Dr. B. Joy Jeffries, the ophthalmologist, at that time a volunteer assistant in McLaren's office. In the winter of 1863 the army office was moved to No. 2 Bulfinch street. Dr. McLaren, a bluff Scotchman with a pronounced penchant for strong drink, used Brigham well; soon advanced him to be chief clerk and had him trained for the position of hospital steward, an office for which he qualified February 24, 1864. On McLaren's advice Brigham studied medicine at Harvard Medical School, matriculating in the fall of that year and graduating in 1868. His personal account of the professors of the school in those days makes interesting reading. The doctor took special pains with his handwriting while with Dr. McLaren, taking courses in a business school to perfect it; he developed a skill at bookkeeping and writing records that has stayed with him through life. In 1871 Dr. Brigham married Jane Spring Pierce, daughter of Moses and Mehitabel Nye Pierce of Medford. They had two children, a daughter and a son. Mrs. Brigham, who died at the age of seventy-seven, January 6, 1923, after many years of invalidism, was of old New England ancestry being eighth in descent from John Pers of Watertown. She was an ardent Unitarian and an active member of the Medford Historical Society.

Until 1875 Dr. Brigham was in the army service, part of the time as examining surgeon for recruits. In that year Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, who had interested himself especially in former soldiers and knew Brigham, got him to assist him with a paper which was read in February, 1875, before the Thursday Evening Club at the home of S. D. Warren on Mt. Vernon Street. Dr. Brigham was invited to attend and there met Dr. James Read Chadwick, but recently returned from studies abroad and to be the librarian of the Boston Medical Library Association, from its founding later in that year, until his death thirty years after. Dr. Brigham was given a clerkship in the office of the State Board of Health, at that time under the chairmanship of Dr. Bowditch. He gave all of his energies to his duties in that capacity until October 1, when he became assistant librarian to the new medical library, then in rooms at No. 5 Hamilton Place, subsequently sharing his time with the State Board of Health. In the library he was brought into contact with the leading men of the medical profession, keeping the rooms in Hamilton Place for three years, then in the new rooms at 19 Boylston Place from 1878 to 1901 and finally in the more pretentious building at 8 The Fenway until November, 1909, when he resigned, having filled out thirty-four years of devoted work. After the first years the library duties took all of his time; at 19 Boylston Place he occupied rooms over the library with his wife and two children, being on duty at all times of the day and night for the benefit of the directory for nurses, which he managed in addition to his services as resident librarian.

As will be told in his personal recollections, to follow, he became librarian of the Massachusetts Medical Society unofficially in 1879, officially in 1884. He was made Librarian Emeritus, by vote of the Council, February 1, 1922, at the age of eighty-one when he had been officially librarian for thirty-seven years — a long period of fidelity. His painstaking industry, courtesy, desire to please and his buoyant optimism have been important assets both to the state



medical society and to the Library, while the value of his incessant labor in keeping true the membership lists — especially after 1898 when he was made assistant to the secretary — and in producing full and correct catalogues and directories can hardly be overestimated.

### RECOLLECTIONS OF DR. E. H. BRIGHAM

"I will commence my recollections with the meetings of the Council at 19 Boylston Place in 1879. Being the locum tenens I heard the proceedings. George Hinckley Lyman was elected president June 11, 1878, and served until June 8, 1880. I had known Dr. Lyman since the civil war. I think it was in 1864 I first met him; he was often at the office of Surgeon McLaren where I was on duty as hospital steward U.S.A. and chief clerk. It was through Dr. Lyman's influence that I was elected librarian of the Massachusetts Medical Society, vice Dr. D. H. Hayden. I had done the work for Dr. Hayden for about five years when I received the official appointment in 1884. Dr. Lyman was a handsome man with an aristocratic bearing, but democratic in manner. He was an excellent presiding officer, calm, dignified and a good parliamentarian. He served during the war as medical inspector with the rank of colonel. There were six inspectors in the entire army, two of them being from the state of Massachusetts, Dr. Peter Pineo of Hyannis being Dr. Lyman's colleague. The small regular army had no machinery in its medical department to cope with the large numbers of the large new personnel; there were many incompetent surgeons and the conditions in some of the hospitals were disgraceful. There being only one colonel in the medical department, the assistant surgeon-general, he was given six inspectors, with the same rank, to help manage the department. To understand the duties and trials of Dr. Lyman in his military career one must read a paper delivered by him before the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts, May 13, 1890, entitled "Some Aspects of the Medical Service in the Armies of the United States during the War of the Rebellion."

I remember a meeting of the council, February 4, 1880, when a committee charged with making a code of ethics for the society, reported. The majority report was read by Dr. B. E. Cotting, the minority by Dr. H. J. Bigelow. Dr. Cotting advocated a long code made up from Percival's (London) code, covering all possible ethical contingencies that might be met by a practitioner, until the council showed signs of weariness. Dr. Bigelow then read his report favoring a brief code of general principles. His report was adopted by vote and, with minor changes, is still in force. Dr. Cotting showed great disappointment. Dr. Bigelow stated that a short code was all sufficient for honorable men and gentlemen — others would not be bound by any code. He gave an enigmatic smile and sat down amid applause. Dr. Cotting had a forceful personality and assumed to rule the Norfolk District Medical Society but was antagonized at every turn by Dr. Henry Austin Martin, the introducer of pure animal vaccine. Every meeting of the district society was attended by breezy arguments and drew a large attendance for the fun. Dr. Martin was a fine looking man, a most fluent speaker, eloquent, witty, pathetic. Of Celtic origin he played on the heart strings and almost made Dr. Cotting appear to be unfair, selfish, dogmatic and a near villain.



Alfred Hosmer was chosen president June 13, 1882. A good man but somewhat reserved and with very strong opinions, which he expressed rather freely. I knew him pretty well from boyhood, as I lived in Watertown and he attended professionally all my relatives. He was very active in town meetings and very insistent that his ideas should prevail. He succeeded to the practice of his uncle, Hiram Hosmer, a man of mark of the older school.

At Boylston Place, where I spent so many years of my life, there was a large hall downstairs. Around the walls were shelves for books while portraits of medical worthies decorated the edge of the galleries and available wall space. In this hall were held various medical meetings, by the Boston societies for medical improvement and for observation, the Suffolk District Medical Society and by the council of the parent state medical society. I was in attendance at every meeting, sitting in the rear of the hall so that I might call out any physician present, if he were wanted by his patients, and to look out for things generally. In a short time I had learned to know every man by the back of his head as well as by his face. The meetings of a clinical character often had piles of tumors and pathological material heaped on the table near the presiding officer's desk for demonstration. Subsequently it was a part of my duty to see that cremation under the boiler took place.

(Signed)

Edwin H. Brigham"

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GEORGE WASHINGTON GAY (1842- ), the son of Willard and Fanny Wright Gay, was born at Swanzy, New Hampshire, January 14, 1842. His education was received in the public schools of his native town and at the Powers Institute at Bernardston, Massachusetts, also at the Harvard Medical School, where he received an M.D. degree in 1868, in the same class with Reginald H. Fitz and George F. Jelly, two of Boston's noted practitioners. In 1895 Dartmouth conferred her A.M. on Dr. Gay. Settling in practice in Boston after working a few months as assistant to Dr. George B. Twitchell of Keene, N. H. and serving as house officer at the Boston City Hospital, he devoted himself to general practice. Four years after graduation he was appointed surgeon to the City Hospital where he had spent his novitiate and he held the office for the rest of his life, becoming surgeon emeritus in his later years. From 1888 to 1900 he was instructor in clinical surgery in the Harvard Medical School and lecturer on surgery from 1900 to 1908.

One of Dr. Gay's great interests in life has been the Massachusetts Medical Society. He served the society as vice-president in 1904-1905, as president in 1906-1908 and as a member of its committee on state and national legislation for a series of years. He has been known as "the father of the malpractice act," taking an active interest in this measure before and since it went into effect. A constant attendant at meetings of the council he has added much in a practical way to the activities of the society for a long time. He has written something as to his experiences that will be found at the end of this notice. A contributor to "Wood's Handbook of the Medical Sciences" he has furnished frequent papers to the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* during a long career.

In 1898 Dr. Gay married Mary E. Hutchinson of Milford, N. H. She dying in 1873 he married for a second wife Grace Greenleaf Hathorne of Boston in

November, 1875. For many years he has made his home in Chestnut Hill, while maintaining an office in Boston. Among the societies in which he holds membership may be mentioned: American Surgical Association, American Medical Association, British Medical Association. He has been a trustee of the Wrentham State School for the Feeble Minded.

### REMINISCENCES OF DR. G. W. GAY

He wrote under date of December 10, 1920: — "The first time I entered the old dissecting room in North Grove Street in November, 1864, the only person there was a tall, spare man with sharp eyes and a determined manner who was busy dissecting. We naturally fell into conversation and soon found that we were from the same state, New Hampshire, and were working our way into the profession through our own efforts, by teaching school, and like employments. The acquaintance of that morning ripened into a close friendship that terminated only by the death nearly half a century later, of Edwin B. Harvey of Westborough, my fellow dissector. He was a broad gaged man with a vision and fine organizing capacity, the father of free textbooks in the schools of this state, as well as of the board of registration in medicine. In the early eighties he introduced and carried through the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society the vote creating the committee on state and national legislation. For many years he was the secretary of the board of registration in medicine and was frequently consulted by the legislators in relation to various bills brought before the legislature relating to public health matters. Being asked not infrequently why the medical profession did not take more interest in these subjects, why its members did not appear before the legislative committees and give the necessary information so important in enacting laws relating to the public welfare, he sought my help and it was my custom to join him in this work at the State House in advocating or opposing bills of a professional character.

When I became president of the state society, I determined to pay especial attention to three objects, to wit, to resuscitate the committee on state and national legislation, which was lethargic, to strengthen the relations of the Massachusetts Medical Society with the American Medical Association and finally to introduce a medical defense act. The committee was reorganized by placing active men on it and by creating an advisory committee composed of one or more persons in each of the forty Senatorial Districts of the state among whom should be the family physicians of the legislators and other influential people who would take an interest in the work. The plan was excellent, but the results did not always come up to the expectations for obvious reasons. Something, however, was accomplished and my successors have followed up the work with far better results.

Having become interested in suits for alleged malpractice, it naturally followed that medical defense by the state society should engage my attention. I went to New York and saw the late Dr. Wisner R. Townsend, secretary of the Medical Society of the State of New York, got a copy of their act, opened a correspondence with their counsel, Mr. James Taylor Lewis, who had had a larger experience in this work of defending physicians than any other lawyer



in the country, also with Dr. Frederick R. Green of the American Medical Association, of Chicago, and many others who were interested in the subject. At the proper time I asked Dr. Harvey to revamp the New York Act to suit the conditions in this state. He had a peculiar gift at this sort of work and the result of our conferences was the present Malpractice Act. In my travels over the state to meetings of district societies I called attention to malpractice and when the proposed act was brought before the Council in 1908 it went through without a hitch of any importance. The Act has come to stay. No state society has ever repealed such a measure and there is little likelihood that our society will do so in the near future.

In relation to my experience with the Committee on State and National Legislation I found that much depends upon the Legislative Committee on Public Health, and especially its chairman. The most inefficient one I ever met was a country physician of the olden time. Many of the country physicians are intelligent and well posted, but this one was not. He had no force and the quacks and cranks used to ride over him roughshod. He could not hold speakers to their allotted time, or to any rules of the committee.

My most troublesome experience occurred in relation to Vital Statistics. I was asked to make an effort to put these records in charge of the State Board of Health where they belong. They are now in the office of the Secretary of State, a non-medical department. The vital statistics of this state are made up from the returns of the undertakers who get their data from the physicians in charge at the time of death, or from the medical examiners. The National Board of Vital Statistics gather their data from the same sources and yet the returns are very far apart, so far in fact, that often the state statistics are of no value, as the court of last resort is the national organization. The two bodies should work in unison in order to arrive at reliable results.

A bill was prepared and presented and a day was appointed for the hearing. Among the statisticians who were interested in the subject was Mr. Hoffman, a man of international reputation, who came on from New York at his own expense to appear at the hearing. I opened the case and stated the situation briefly and the reasons for making the transfer. The largest room in the State House was packed with politicians! They did not care a rap for vital statistics and did not propose to lose their grip on anything in their hands. Thirty-six Bills were Listed for a Hearing on that Day!!! At the end of about five minutes the chairman said he understood the matter and was going to close the hearing for the petitioners then and there. I protested and urged that Mr. Hoffman be heard and that others were also ready to speak. He finally allowed Mr. Hoffman about ten minutes and then closed the hearing for the petitioners. It was evident that the committee cared nothing about the subject and were not going to disturb present conditions.

The vaccination fights were also most irritating, as the same people appeared every year and tried to get the present law repealed. Too many of the legislators were ignorant and stupid, caring only for the political results of their action. The work is important but the results have not been very satisfactory. The surest way to get votes for desirable health legislation is by personal solicitation.

(Signed)

George W. Gay"



## CHAPTER VII

### RECENT TIMES

1910-1922

THIS is not the place to give an exact account of what was accomplished at the State House in the way of legislation relating to the public health; enough to say that the standing committee of the state medical society was each year at work. With the assistance of the auxiliary committee and by the use of wise publicity, legislators have been little by little educated to the needs and ambitions of the medical profession. Often not so much as could be reasonably expected has been accomplished. That must be put down to the fact that legislators are human and they live in a state where, through curious sophistries the educated and the uneducated are rated as equals so far as medical standards go. The reason for such a state of affairs in a forward looking state in respect to many other fields of human endeavor, is a matter that might be debated at length. That it exists is attested by the fact that Massachusetts was one of the last states in the Union to adopt a medical practice law. Other states could see that their citizens needed protection from the ignorant and the pretenders. Not so Massachusetts, where one man was in the eyes of the law exactly as good as another, possibly due to a survival of the anti-slavery views of the civil war period. He might be possessed of a miraculous power to cure the sick. Who knew? Let him try, though it would not do to try it on the dog, for veterinaries must be licensed.

In the year 1910 the committee on state and national legislation favored a bill for a board of registration of nursing. This was passed, the secretary of the board of registration in medicine becoming automatically secretary of the "board of registration of nurses," as the board is called. A bill prohibiting the reappointment of any member of the board of registration in medicine was aimed at Dr. E. B. Harvey by a medical politician in the legislature who resented Dr. Harvey's blunt manner and sought to

prevent his reappointment. It failed of passage and Dr. Harvey continued to fill the office of secretary of that board until chronic heart disease claimed him three years later. An antivaccination bill and an optometry bill — the latter elevating a class of opticians to the position of educated ophthalmologists — both failed to pass although with the aid of a large lobby a similar optometry bill was passed by both houses in 1912 and signed by Governor Eugene N. Foss, thus establishing the board of registration in optometry in that year.

Friendly relations with the American Medical Association were reestablished, as we have seen, in 1906 and the succeeding years. At the meeting of the council on February 2, 1910, Dr. G. W. Gay offered a motion

“that the members of the board of trustees and of the various councils and committees, standing and special, of the American Medical Association residing in Massachusetts, together with the delegates and their alternates from the Massachusetts Medical Society to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, be invited to attend the meetings of this council.”

The motion was passed. In the following June it was voted that the annual meetings of the society should not conflict with the annual meetings of the national society — later the by-law of the society was amended so that such a conflict should not occur. A special committee to consider the relations of the state society to the American Medical Association was appointed on October 2, 1912; it consisted of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, one member of the standing committee on membership and finance, two presidents of district societies, two secretaries of district societies and two of the delegates to the house of delegates of the national association who had attended the last meeting of that body. The last six members were to be appointed by the president. The committee met twice, appointed a sub-committee to draft changes in the by-laws to bring Massachusetts into line with the other state medical societies. It recommended that the fiscal year coincide with the calendar year; previously it had been from April 15 to April 15. It asked that members in good standing of other state medical societies who apply for fellowship in the Massachusetts Medical Society be taken in on the same basis as fellows of the Massachusetts society who have resigned and apply for readmission. These recommendations were incorporated in the revision of the by-laws in the spring of 1913. Dr. H. D. Arnold

had attended the first meeting of the secretaries of the state medical societies at Chicago, October 23 and 24, 1912, as a delegate from Massachusetts. Thirty-eight state societies were represented at the meetings in the building of the American Medical Association. A plan for the uniform regulation of membership was presented, with uniform application blanks and a system of transfers from one society to another. That the fiscal year should coincide with the calendar year was considered to be essential.

Secretary Walter L. Burrage attended the next meeting of the state secretaries at the building of the American Medical Association February 25, 1914, making a report to the council at its annual meeting in June of that year. Again thirty-eight states were represented at the conference in Chicago; each state represented was heard from through its spokesman at the meeting. It appeared that a majority of states then had the calendar year for a fiscal year; that most of the states considered that the county or district society was the best judge of the fitness of physicians for membership in the state societies and that any system of transfer from one state society to another was not feasible; there was an extended discussion as to the best way to coördinate the county, state and national branches of the national society. At the afternoon session of the conference Dr. Burrage read a paper entitled: "The Plan of Organization of the Massachusetts Medical Society." It was well received and later published in the Bulletin of the Association for March 15, 1914, Vol. 9, No. 4.

In February, 1911, Dr. H. D. Arnold introduced a motion that the travelling expenses of the Massachusetts delegates to the house of delegates to and from the annual meetings of the national society should be paid by the society up to the amount of one hundred dollars for each delegate, but nothing was to be paid for hotel expenses. The motion was passed and has been in effect ever since. In October, 1912, a vote was passed legalizing a practice that had obtained for a long time, namely, that the society pay the "legitimate expenses" of its delegates to the conferences of the American Medical Association held yearly in the early spring, at Chicago. Thorough coöperation between the state society and the national society had been established, a situation that was to last for a long series of years.

On February 1, 1911, Dr. A. T. Cabot brought before the council a motion:



"That a committee of three be appointed by the chair to consider the question whether the present rule that assigns fellows to membership in the societies where they have their legal residences works satisfactorily to bring out the best efficiency of the society and to meet the convenience of the fellows."

The motion was passed and the following committee appointed: A. T. Cabot, F. R. Sims and W. L. Burrage. In the following June the committee reported at length in a printed circular, reviewing the history of the question of residence. They said that in 1875 the Suffolk District had requested the council to define the term "reside" as it occurred in the Digest and By-Laws. The standing committee on the by-laws of the district societies reported "that the term alluded to a legal and not to a professional residence"; the matter was referred back to the committee by the council, was subsequently discussed in its various bearings by the committee and they were finally unanimously agreed that the word "reside" is invariably used in the sense of legal residence so they recommended that such an interpretation be put upon it. This was adopted by the council in 1876 and has been so used since. The committee of 1911 considered the changes in medical practice which had developed since 1876, they thought that the habits of medical men had altered materially, owing in large part to the use of the automobile and telephone; that men often lived in one town and had their place of practice in another; some had more than one office; therefore it was recommended that in view of the tendency of fellows to reside away from their places of practice it would be a hardship to list the members strictly according to their legal residences and those who wished to do so should be given the opportunity to be transferred to the districts with which they had the closest professional affiliations. As a result of the report to the council on June 13, 1911, the by-laws were amended by the society the next day to read as follows, and they have remained the same ever since:

"The membership of each district society shall consist only of fellows, retired fellows, and honorary fellows, having legal residences within the boundaries of the district, except in cases decided otherwise by vote of the council.

Any fellow wishing to change his membership from one district society to another without a change of legal residence must petition the council in writing to grant such a change, stating his reasons therefor, and send such petition to the committee on membership and finance, which shall consider the petition, shall consult with the officers of the two districts concerned in the change, and shall report recommendations to the council. The council shall decide by vote whether or not such petitions shall be granted."

The plan has worked to the entire satisfaction of the society. At each meeting of the council, about five or six petitions are received from fellows who wish to change their membership, the petitions being first considered and acted on by the committee on membership and finance — a no small or inconsiderable duty, for it involves much correspondence between the officers of both the districts affected. The first of these series of transfers was at the council meeting of October 2, 1912, when six fellows were assigned to districts which were not those of their legal residences.

The first "General Alphabetical List" of all the fellows of the society from the beginning with dates of entrance, death, retirement or age at death was published in 1848. Another came out in 1855, then yearly catalogues until 1870, when a complete catalogue from the beginning to that year was issued. The plan had been the same always, to list the year of entrance into the society, full name, including a middle name, if any, and city or town of residence. If a member had resigned, had been deprived of the privileges of fellowship, had moved out of the state or had died, the fact was indicated by a suitable sign. After the year 1875 triennial catalogues were issued until the year 1911 when the secretary's new broom swept in a yearly directory with not only the places of residence but also the definite street and number addresses of the fellows. The yearly directory has been a feature of the society publications ever since. Of course it meant more work for the librarian; local telephone directories throughout the state had to be consulted, as soon as the coöperation of the New England Telephone Company had been obtained, a constant trueing of addresses had to be in progress all the time with the sending of many cards and a daily notification to the treasurer of the society of transfers from one district to another, so that he might keep the district treasurers apprised of the changes. When the rule as to change from one district to another without a change of legal residence had gone into effect the petitions of fellows for transfer had to be handled and their true legal residences ferreted out and entered in the directory. A yearly publication of the addresses of all the fellows helps to keep up the morale of the society. The house of its membership is put in order as all may see. Societies, like individuals, hold the respect of the community if they are constantly alert to wear their clothes properly.

By reference to the lists of presidents of the society from earliest times (see Appendix, page 462) it will appear that from 1862 until



1916 the terms of service of the presidents had been uniformly two years. Previous to 1862 the terms had varied, the longest being that of John Warren who served the society as president for eleven years, dying in office; Jacob Bigelow served five years, George Hayward three and John Homans three, — from 1859 to 1862. Samuel B. Woodward served three years, from 1916 to 1919, consenting to hold office another year on account of war conditions, to the great benefit of the organization. On October 1, 1911, Dr. E. B. Harvey presented the following preamble, resolution and motion, concerning the length of the term of office of the president:

*"Whereas, The best interests of the society evidently require frequent successions in the offices of President and Vice-President, therefore*

*Resolved, That in the opinion of the council it is advisable that the term of office of President and of Vice-President be limited to one year, and that in the election of Vice-President due regard should be exercised as to his fitness for promotion to the office of President the succeeding year.*

*Moved, That further consideration of the Resolution be postponed for consideration by the council at its next meeting, and that the secretary be instructed to transmit, at an early date, a copy of the resolution and preamble as offered to each of the several district societies for discussion and for such action as the said societies may deem wise."*

The matter came up at the meeting on February 7, 1912. The resolution was favored by Dr. G. W. Gay, a recent president of the society. He thought that having the president serve for only one year would increase interest in the society especially among the district societies for there would be more presidents elected from more of the districts; the question arose as to the sort of president which would be of the greatest value, one who simply presided at the meetings or one who would originate and carry policies to fruition; if it had taken the president two years to visit all of the district societies, according to past custom, it was thought that this visiting could then be done successfully in one year. On the other hand if it took the president a year to become familiar with the duties of his office the society would be the loser by a one year term. Letters were read from two of the ex-presidents, opposing a change from two to one year terms. The vote of the Barnstable district favoring the resolution and of the Berkshire, Plymouth and Suffolk districts opposing it, were read by the secretary. Councilors from Hampden, Middlesex South, Norfolk, Worcester and Worcester North spoke in favor and councilors from Middlesex South, Norfolk and Suffolk in opposition. The resolution was read again, put to a vote and defeated *viva voce*.



Here the subject rested until 1920 when the senior member of the nominating committee of the council suggested in a circular letter to his brother members that it might be well to try the plan of choosing a vice-president who was fitted for the position of president, — rather than having the position an entirely honorary one, — and advancing him to the office of president the succeeding year. The nominating committee brought in a name for vice-president with this in view. Next year the nominating committee did not return this same vice-president as a nominee for president and the incident seemed to be closed.

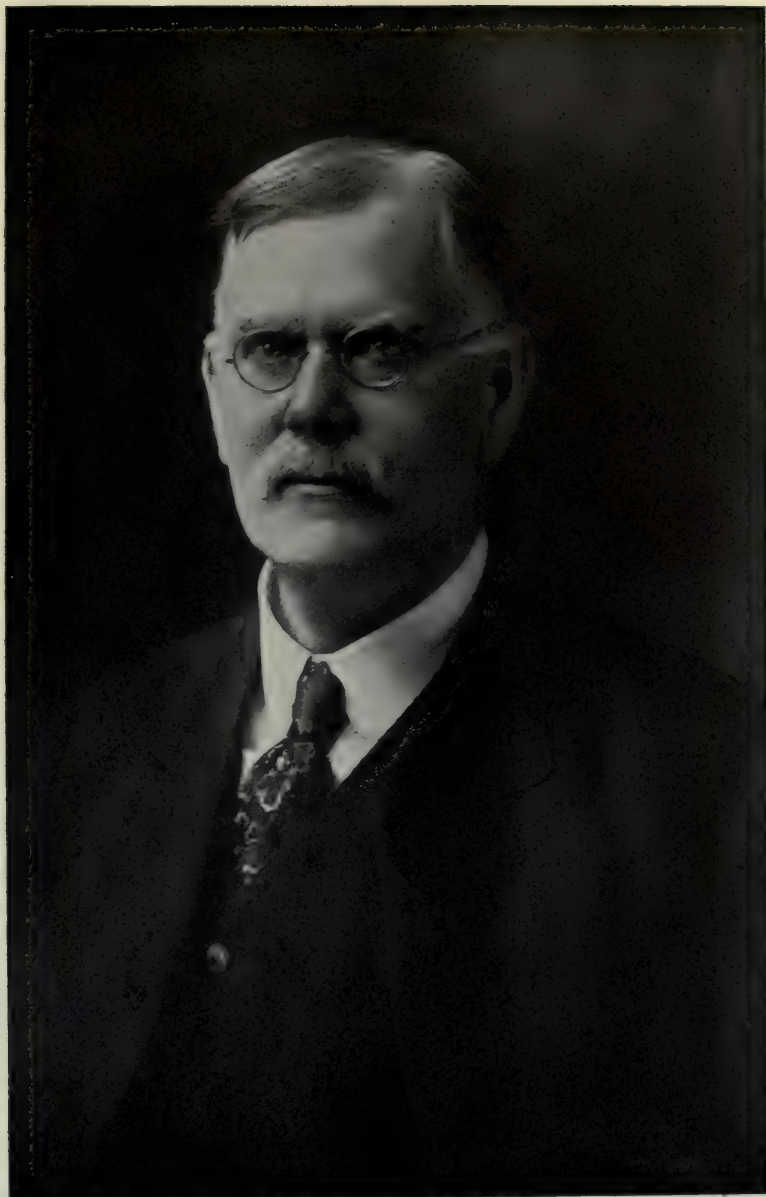
Happenings of this time were an announcement by the treasurer at the October meeting of the council in 1911 that the income of the Cotting Fund no longer produced sufficient income to provide the Cotting Lunches at the council meetings. Three causes were responsible for this; one, the decrease in the average rate of income to be obtained from investments, two, the increasing cost of food — to be higher still after the war — and three, the increase in the number of the councilors, for the one-to-twenty ratio added to the number as the society grew. The council voted to make up any deficit from the funds of the society. For the year 1921 the Cotting Fund produced an income of \$135, while the lunches cost \$396.37, according to the treasurer's report, or more than twice as much.

Other happenings were the establishment of a standing committee on public health and a section of tuberculosis in the year 1912, two projects that were dear to the heart of Arthur Cabot. He made the motions creating both. On February 7, 1912, he moved:

"That a committee on public health be and hereby is constituted, to consist of five members, one of whom shall be a member of or connected with the State Board of Health, one an authority and student in Preventive Medicine, and the other three fellows from different parts of the state selected for their experience and interest in questions affecting the public health."

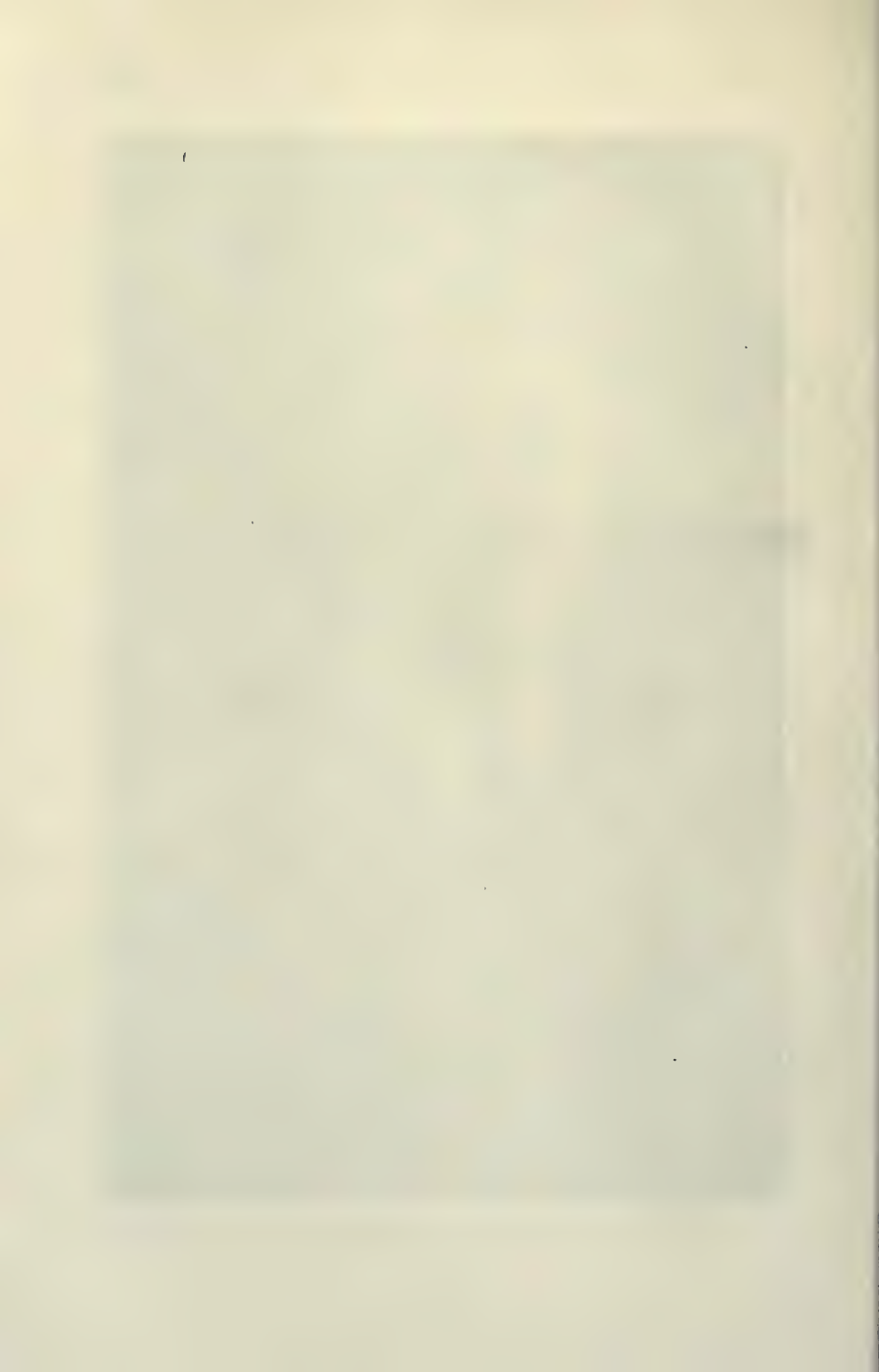
On a further motion the president was to appoint the first committee and he named, accordingly, the following: M. W. Richardson, M. J. Rosenau, L. A. Jones, W. I. Clark, R. I. Lee. The committee made their first report on June 11, 1912. In the succeeding years all of the members of the committee have been changed except Dr. Lee, who still serves. The wording of the section of the by-laws defining the constitution and duties of the committee on public health was modified to the following in the by-laws of 1913 and has so remained:

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WALTER PRENTICE BOWERS

BCST  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY





"The committee on public health shall consist of five fellows from different parts of the state selected for their experience and interest in questions affecting the public health. The committee shall consider measures for the improvement of the public health, and shall perfect plans for educating the profession and the lay members of the community in the special subdivisions of this department of medicine. It shall make a report to the annual meeting of the council."

This committee has done excellent work and for most of the time has not conflicted with its sister standing committee, the committee on state and national legislation, for their provinces overlap. At the meeting at which the new committee on public health made its first report the section of tuberculosis was established by a motion introduced by Dr. Cabot. It has continued to function at every annual meeting since, the programs being full and representative and the meetings well attended.

The president of the society, Dr. W. P. Bowers of Clinton, outlined a policy for his administration at the October meeting of the council in 1912. He spoke of the need of a revision of the by-laws, which had not been brought up to date for six years, and advised the appointment of a committee to take charge of the matter; he urged the advisability of submitting the estimates from each of the standing committees and from the officers to the committee on membership and finance — a budget system, in fact; he thought that the working of the malpractice defence act should be reviewed by a committee; in his opinion the financial year might be changed so that it would coincide with the calendar year and he asked the fellows to get into touch with their district societies so that the views of the districts might find expression in the representative governing body, the council. To promote harmony and to get the opinion of as many districts as possible he gave a dinner at the Copley Plaza Hotel at which many of the presidents of the districts, especially those at a distance from Boston, and the officers and chairmen of the standing committees were present. The meeting was productive of much good feeling and advanced the get-together spirit to a considerable degree. A committee to revise the by-laws was appointed on February 5, 1913. The secretary and one or two of the members had been at work on a tentative revision during the preceding winter. On May 11 the committee reported with a draft and the following observations, the draft being sent to every fellow with the program of the annual meeting:

"Attention is called to the following points:

1. By-laws are arranged in chapters and sections following the plan in use previous to 1832, instead of *seriatim*. This corresponds to the usual custom at present and permits of amendment and addition without altering the numbers of all succeeding by-laws.

2. "Special Rules" and "Standing Votes and Resolves" have been incorporated in the by-laws.

3. The council has voted (Feb. 5, 1913) to change the beginning of the fiscal year from April 15 to January 1. This draft conforms to the latter date.

4. The duties of all the standing committees and all the officers are defined.

5. The four previous standing committees (1) On Publications, (2) on Scientific Papers, (3) on Medical Education and (4) on Medical Diplomas have been consolidated into two committees. This makes the number of the standing committees seven, instead of nine.

6. The draft embodies suggestions of the president, the vice-president, for thirty-four years secretary of the Society, the treasurer and the secretary, from their experience.

Homer Gage, *Chairman*

J. Arthur Gage

John W. Bartol

Hugh Cabot

Walter L. Burrage, *Secretary.*"

The revision was a most thorough one, in fact a complete rearrangement was made such as the by-laws had not received since 1896, when the new digest of the laws of the Commonwealth had been adopted. They were approved by the council June 10, and by the society the next day, the chairman of the committee of revision explaining to the annual meeting that the new by-laws in an amended draft had been arranged in chapters and sections with marginal references according to the custom in vogue previous to 1832, replacing numbered lines and "articles" as in the recent past; that they included all the "special rules" and "standing votes and resolves" of both council and society; that they fixed the beginning of the fiscal year as January first; that members in good standing of other state medical societies were admitted to fellowship without a written examination; that the duties of all officers and standing committees were defined; that four of the standing committees had been consolidated into two standing committees; that the new by-laws embodied the suggestions of the officers and of many other fellows of the society; that numerous amendments had been incorporated in the revised draft since the original draft had been sent to every fellow a month before that meeting, and that every member present had a copy of the last draft.



The next revision of the by-laws was in 1920, seven years later, when this committee had the matter in charge: Homer Gage, John W. Bartol, Walter P. Bowers, George G. Sears and Walter L. Burrage. The committee appointed at the annual meeting in 1919 reported a revised draft to the council, February 4, 1920. Some changes in phraseology in Section 1, Chapter I; in Section 3, Chapter III and in Section 3, Chapter V were offered and adopted and the revision was approved. The society accepted the revision at the annual meeting, June 9, 1920, and repealed the previous by-laws, according to custom. This revision was not a thorough recasting but an attempt to bring the rules of action of the society up to the present-day requirements. A complete revision of the code of ethics was made by the committee on ethics and discipline, the same general plan of the former code being adopted, that is, a general statement of the rules of ethical conduct for fellows of the society, such as had been formulated by Dr. Henry J. Bigelow in 1880, rather than specific instructions to be followed in every contingency. The former code was modernized in language and revised. The society adopted it at the same meeting at which the new by-laws were voted on. The by-laws were changed chiefly in the sections that had to do with discipline, those portions having been rewritten by the committee on ethics. Minor changes were made as a result of the notations that had been made since the last revision in the secretary's interleaved copy of the by-laws. The supervising censors had rewritten, in 1915, all of Chapter V, having to do with the rules of the censors, after having held several meetings, the revised chapter replacing the old chapter in the laws of 1920. The Digest of the laws of the Commonwealth relating to the Massachusetts Medical Society was trued up and verified at this time by the secretary, the different articles being compared with the original statutes, several errors being eliminated.

During this year 1913 one or two matters of minor interest are to be recorded. The council voted to indorse, at the instance of the committee on public health, the following four propositions:

- “1. That local health administration in the state be placed as far as may be in the hands of a single official who shall hold office during his continued efficiency.
2. That said officials, wherever possible, be men trained for their special duties.
3. That in neighboring and sparsely settled communities a single health officer be given authority over two or more towns or communities.
4. That communities be shown the advantages of such permanent trained



health officials; that they be urged to obtain such officials, and that they be stimulated to support them loyally when they have obtained them."

It is well for someone to set the pace in every community even though many will not be able to keep up. The medical society is the proper vehicle for idealism in matters medical; the Massachusetts society has repeatedly set up its standards. Sometimes they have been heeded by the legislators, often not.

In this year Dr. W. H. Merrill for the Essex North District presented a communication concerning the practical working of the Workmen's Compensation Act of the state, as it relates to the care of injured employees by physicians and hospitals. Dr. H. F. R. Watts of Norfolk discussed the matter of workmen's compensation and proposed a committee of five members to consider the situation and improve the law, Chapter 751 of the Acts of 1911, which had been passed in that year, so to speak, without the advice and consent of the medical profession. The first committee was: F. J. Cotton, W. A. Dolan, S. B. Woodward, F. W. Snow, R. J. Meigs. A committee has been continued to the present day, its membership several times changed; the law has been amended many times and Chapter 152 of the General Laws is a great improvement on the original act, some of the improvement being due to the activities of committees of the society — the special committee and the standing committee on state and national legislation.

For the first time in the history of the society the annual dinner was given in the evening in 1912, under the presidency of Dr. G. B. Shattuck. The previous year there had been a disgraceful exodus of diners before the invited guests had spoken, to baseball games that had been advertised in advance. This was from Symphony Hall. The first evening dinner was served in Mechanics Building. There were nine hundred and forty fellows and guests present, addresses were made by the president, who acted as toastmaster, by the lieutenant governor, by the presidents of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, by William G. Thompson, an eminent lawyer, by Dr. Joseph Ransohoff of Cincinnati, Dr. David L. Edsall of Harvard Medical School and Dr. Walter P. Bowers, the president elect, the occasion being pronounced a success. At this time no other state medical society had its banquet in the middle of the day; the evening when the cares of the day and office hours are over seemed to be the proper time for relaxation, for dining and listening to speeches. All the fellows

did not agree to this view and on October 4, 1916, the Barnstable District petitioned that the annual dinner be held at 1 P.M. as in former years. The matter had a thorough discussion and was referred to the committee of arrangements. The succeeding dinners were evening affairs — except that in 1918 the dinner was omitted altogether on account of war conditions, — until 1921 when the experiment was tried of a mid-day dinner, following renewed discussion by those fellows who felt that they were obliged to devote too much time to attending a dinner in the evening, because of living far from Boston. The dinner was not a success, only 164 attending it, the smallest number in the recent history of the society. Previous to the year 1914 no charge was made for the annual dinner, every paid-up fellow being entitled to a ticket. The numbers got so large, 1135 in 1911, 940 in 1912, 1198 in 1913 that the dinners became unwieldy. There is a limit to the total number of persons who may be dined in a hall at one time. After that limit has been reached it is a question of having an outdoor barbecue. The psychology of each man for himself at a free entertainment led some of the diners to engage in an unseemly scramble for the viands already on the tables previous to the time allotted the dinner to begin. In 1914 the practice was inaugurated by the council of charging a dollar to each diner, on the principle that those who attended and ate the dinners should pay a part at least of the cost. In that year the number of diners was 700; a well regulated and dignified banquet was the result. The custom has persisted to the present, except that in 1920 the council ruled that the major part of the charge for the dinner should be paid by those who attended and the fee was \$2.50, the number present being 330. In 1921 the fee was \$2.00 when, as has been noted, 164 attended a dinner at one o'clock in the middle of the day.

In October, 1913, the president, Dr. Bowers, discussed the working of the malpractice act, Dr. Godfrey Ryder of Malden made seven suggestions which had been given him as to possible improvements; a committee of five was appointed to consider the entire question of the operation of the act, the committee reporting in February, 1914, as described in the chapter on Malpractice Defence.

It was at this same meeting in October, 1913, that a beginning was made of the propaganda to make the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* the official organ of the society. It took effect



in June, 1914, and the society voted to buy the *Journal* in 1920, as has been told in the chapter on Publications. To sense the entire situation it is necessary to look back on the honorable record of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*. It succeeded the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, a quarterly, in 1828, the New England journal having been started in 1812 and maintained by Boston men. The Boston journal had been carried on through all the years by public spirited medical men, leaders in the profession, who had devoted much of their time and money, too, be it said, to keeping the publication alive. Such a weekly requires a vast amount of labor and effort every week, — full-time expert work — to get out the issues without fail. Busy practitioners found it hard to spare the time and energy necessary for such a job; the *Journal* generally kept several of the younger men in training for the position of editor while the editor-in-chief made daily trips to the office to attend to the business of editing. Much of the detail work of laying out the forms and arranging the matter for each issue fell to the publisher, David Clapp & Son, who served in that capacity for a long series of years. Just before it became the official organ, W. M. Leonard was the publisher while Dr. George B. Shattuck was the editor. The *Journal* was started on its long career on the idealistic basis that being the official mouthpiece for the medical profession of New England it was the duty of the profession to support it, not only by their subscriptions, but by contributions from their pens. For many years the plan was successful. The editor kept in the background, the *Journal* was published without exciting the rivalry of the state society; most of the promoters of the *Journal* were also officers or committeemen of the society. We have seen that propositions were made every now and then for the society to take the *Journal* in place of its publications but they always came to nought because of the expense, for the *Journal* cost five dollars to publish, the exact amount of the annual dues of the society; the subscription list was limited and could not be enlarged. So they struggled along together. Meanwhile, with the passing of time, the weekly medical journals of the country had been suffering changes. The New York *Medical Journal* absorbed two weekly Philadelphia medical journals; *American Medicine* had a comparatively brief existence; the New York *Medical Record* after the death of George F. Shrady, its talented editor, became more and more feeble and finally passed out of existence, leaving only three weekly medical



journals in the country, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *New York Medical Journal*, which had absorbed the *Medical Record*, and the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

It became evident to students of the situation that in order to publish a weekly it was necessary to have some of the sinews that are to be found in the establishments which put out the weekly newspapers, funds to pay skilled writers for editorials, news, abstracting and reporting. The profession could still be relied on to furnish papers, but they were most apt to publish in the journal with the large subscription list. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* with 80,000 subscribers was more attractive to the writers of papers than the Boston journal with less than 5,000 names on its mailing list. According to the treasurer's statement the A. M. A. received in 1921 a total of over \$569,000 from advertising alone. Publishing costs had doubled, due to most difficult labor conditions and advances in the cost of paper. In recent time the journal of the national society raised the price of its weekly from five to six dollars; the Boston journal did the same, and the Massachusetts society its annual dues from six to ten dollars, in order to support its official organ. All credit to the self-sacrificing individuals who are conducting the weekly journal in the face of difficulties that are well nigh insurmountable, in order to maintain a mouthpiece for the physicians of a section of the country which has for so long been represented by its own organ.

The year 1913 closed with a special meeting of the council on December 30 at which the subjects of the status of the midwife and the control of ophthalmia neonatorum were considered. Dr. Hugh Cabot set forth the condition of the laws with regard to the midwife, who, under the Revised Laws, was excluded from the practice of her profession and yet she was repeatedly referred to in the laws, thus seeming to give her a legal status; he submitted resolutions to the effect that the Massachusetts Medical Society was of the opinion that the practice of obstetrics is a vital and essential branch of the practice of medicine and requires the care and supervision of a graduate in medicine; that there is no place for the untrained practitioner in this field of medicine within the Commonwealth; the word "midwife" should be omitted from the statute books; that members of the society should be enjoined from handing in birth returns for cases over which they have had no supervision, when delivered by a midwife, a happening that had been reported frequently of late. It is to be noted now that

the name "midwife" has disappeared from the General Laws but the status of the midwife has not been defined, as yet.

The resolutions had a free discussion and were then adopted unanimously. Dr. Mark W. Richardson suggested amendments to Section 49 of Chapter 75 of the Revised Laws, having to do with providing for consultation with an oculist and the employment of a trained nurse, as far as possible, in the treatment of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum. Dr. F. E. Cheney discussed the question in its various aspects from the standpoint of an ophthalmologist and the amendments were approved. These provisions are incorporated in Section 110, Chapter 111 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, 1921. At this same meeting Dr. Richardson presented a bill for the better protection of the public in the supervision of the production of milk, and its transportation. It was approved by the council. In Chapter 94 of the General Laws there are thirty-six sections having to do with regulations as regards milk. The average citizen might draw the conclusion that the milk industry is supervised in the minutest detail. Many of these details have been worked out, step by step, by the state board of health during many years.

The first report of the committee on ethics and discipline to the council in 1914 and a subsequent report in 1916, embodying a sketch of the previous activities of the committee, as revealed by a study of the record book which had been started in 1874 by F. W. Draper, the secretary, will be found in the chapter on Police Duty and Discipline. In the same report is a full account of the notorious case of Richard C. Cabot, who was reported to have made remarks in public reflecting seriously on the honor and intelligence of his fellow practitioners.

In the year 1914 Dr. E. H. Bigelow of Framingham, later chairman of the standing committee on public health of the Massachusetts Medical Society, was House chairman of the public health committee of the legislature, rendering much assistance to the standing committee on state and national legislation of the society in advancing medical legislation that was of great value, also in checking injudicious bills, the committee of the society having as chairman that year Dr. C. F. Withington, with a long experience in legislative matters as a member of that committee, and Dr. A. K. Stone, the present treasurer of the society, as secretary. In his annual report to the council Dr. Stone spoke of the favorable attitude of Governor David I. Walsh toward obtaining for the

reorganized state department of health a commissioner who possessed thorough training and high standards. Much of the credit for obtaining Allan J. McLaughlin for that position should be given to Dr. Stone and Dr. W. P. Bowers, who visited Washington and secured the release of Dr. McLaughlin by the United States Public Health Service, besides advising the Governor on many occasions and keeping constant supervision of the situation. At the October meeting of the council a vote was passed congratulating the governor and the people of the state on the fortunate choice of a health commissioner to inaugurate the reorganized department, under the recently passed law.

It was at the June meeting in 1914 that Dr. Ernest A. Codman began his propaganda for hospital efficiency in Massachusetts by introducing the following preamble and resolutions:

*"Whereas, It has been brought to the attention of the councilors of the Massachusetts Medical Society that committees have been appointed by the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and the Clinical Congress of Surgeons, to further the object of hospital standardization, therefore be it*

*Resolved, That the council of the Massachusetts Medical Society endorse the main object of these committees, namely to institute a movement to increase the efficiency of hospitals, and be it further*

*Resolved, That the council of the Massachusetts Medical Society hereby recommends that the president of the society be empowered to appoint for the state of Massachusetts a committee on hospital efficiency of five members with instructions as follows:*

1. To make a report at the annual meeting of the council in 1915 as to the present state of medical and surgical efficiency of the hospitals of Massachusetts as far as can be determined from the annual reports of these institutions.
  2. To obtain from the superintendent of each institution a statement as to which individuals or departments are held responsible for the high standard of results in the medical and surgical treatment of their cases.
  3. To obtain from each individual or department an answer to this question: Will you adopt some simple form of morbidity report for in-patients if the majority of the hospitals of the state agree on a uniform plan? Be it also
- Resolved, That the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated for the use of the above mentioned committee upon approval by the committee on membership and finance."*

On nomination by the president the following committee was appointed to carry out the purposes of the resolutions, after they had been passed by the council: Lincoln Davis, P. P. Johnson, P. E. Truesdale, Homer Gage, J. T. Bottomley. At the annual meeting in 1915 this committee reported through Dr. Lincoln



Davis recommending the appointment by the council of a new committee

"to consist of representatives of the medical and surgical and administrative departments of the hospitals of the state, to further consider the means of increasing their medical and surgical efficiency along the lines suggested, and to prepare a plan of uniform hospital report, which, upon the approval by the council, should be recommended to the favorable consideration of the hospitals of Massachusetts."

The recommendation was adopted and this committee appointed: Homer Gage, *Chairman*, P. P. Johnson, P. E. Truesdale, J. T. Bottomley, Lincoln Davis, *Secretary*. Later these members were added to the committee: F. A. Washburn, E. P. Joslin. The committee reported in June, 1916, portions of the report being reproduced here. It will be noted that the committee recommended the establishment of a section on hospital administration for the annual meeting of the society, a recommendation which took effect at the next annual meeting in the first session of such a section under the chairmanship of Homer Gage, the chairman of the committee which had made the following report in part:

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL EFFICIENCY

"It seemed best to concentrate our efforts this year upon the subject of medical and surgical statistics as presented in the annual hospital reports. The tendency for some years past has been to present these statistics in greater and greater detail of division and subdivision, until they have come to occupy a very large part of the report, to require much labor and time in their preparation, and to add very considerably to the cost of printing. All of this without any corresponding increase in their value to the profession or to the public.

We have felt that it was possible to have some system by which all necessary information could be given more simply, more economically, and just as clearly as it is done now, and your Committee submits herewith a tentative plan for this purpose. We realize that it is far from perfect, and shall welcome any criticism or suggestion that may be offered.

The plan is founded upon the report made to the Clinical Congress of Surgeons at its Boston meeting, by a committee of which Dr. E. A. Codman of Boston was chairman, although it differs much in some important details.

Each department of the hospital, such as the medical, surgical, and the different specialties may present the statistics of cases treated, in a table which need occupy, at most, not more than a single printed page, — usually much less.

Transversely, the table may be divided according to an anatomical, vertically according to a pathological, classification, as illustrated in the accompanying specimen, which shows the actual surgical work of a hospital treating three thousand in-patients a year.

It will be seen that the classification adopted in this specimen is quite different from that recommended to the Clinical Congress of Surgeons, — it is modelled more nearly after that in use at the Roosevelt Hospital in New York."

. . . . .

"A concise table of operations may or may not be added as desired, but there should always be added a brief summary of the diagnosis and important points in each fatal case treated in the hospital during the year, with pathological report in all cases in which an autopsy was obtained.

This would afford a clear, concise record of the amount and character of the work done by the hospital staff, with the data easily accessible for anyone desiring more detailed information.

If, in a few words, reference were made to the present condition of certain classes treated in the preceding years, *e.g.* the present condition of the cancers of the breast, or of the hernias, which have appeared in the earlier tables, it would seem as if such a report, without taking up as much printed space, would afford a much better idea of the hospital efficiency than can be gained from the old tables, from which all that we have is, that the patients were discharged cured, relieved, not relieved, not treated, dead.

Although all the details of adapting this plan, especially to the work of the medical department, have not yet been worked out, we believe that it is capable of being made a practical working basis for a uniform hospital report that shall be at once simple, economical and illuminating; and we recommend that further study be undertaken to see if it can be satisfactorily adapted to the large metropolitan as well as to the small private community hospital.

Your Committee further suggests that the problems of hospital records, end-results, and general hospital administration, are of such vital interest to the profession and to the public that their consideration might profitably occupy a more prominent part in the Society's proceedings.

We believe that a special section devoted to these subjects would attract wide attention and be productive of valuable results in increasing the efficiency of the hospitals of the State.

Homer Gage, *Chairman*,  
P. P. Johnson,  
P. E. Truesdale,  
Lincoln Davis."

The section of hospital administration has held regular annual sessions since its first meeting in 1917, the papers and discussions being devoted to the advancement of uniformity in the treatment of hospital statistics and in an actual honest reporting of the results obtained by the hospitals in the treatment of the sick intrusted to their care.

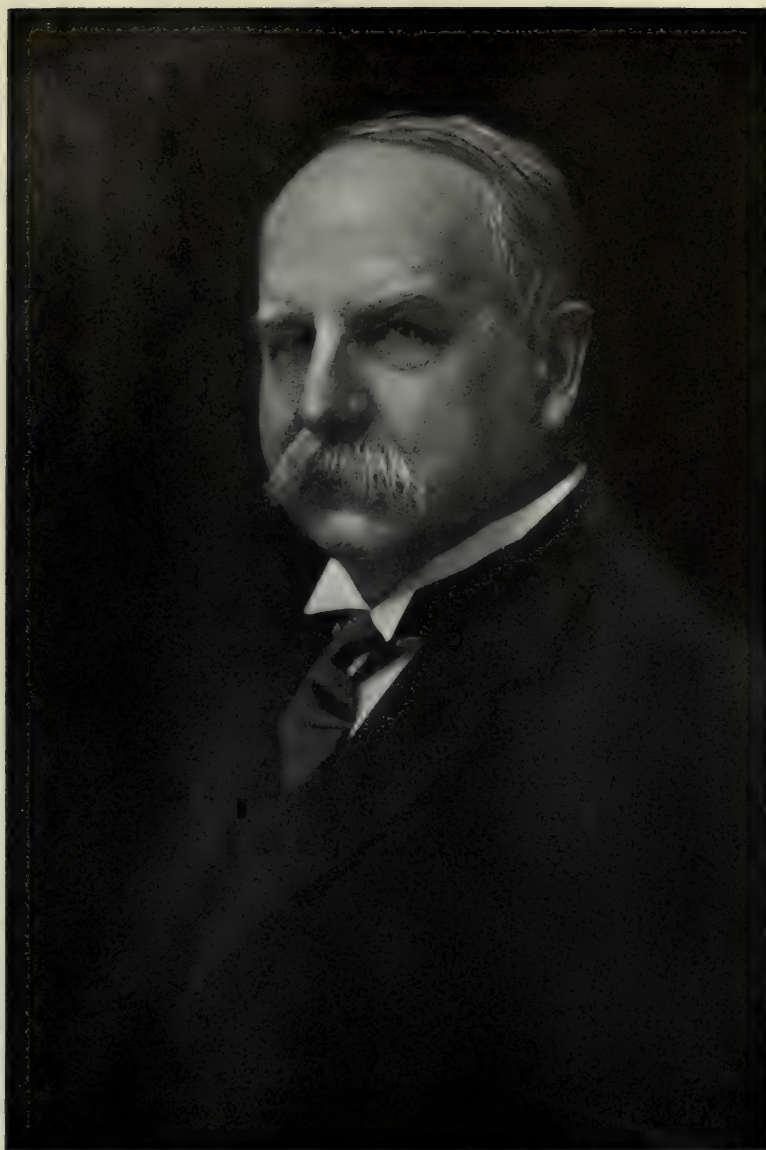
An attempt to combine with laymen in conducting public health work was inaugurated by Dr. Arthur B. Emmons 2d and Mr. Henry Copley Greene of Boston together with Dr. W. P. Bowers by the appointment of a committee at the annual meeting in 1915, to

consist of the president, secretary, treasurer, and the chairmen of the standing committees of the society on membership and finance, state and national legislation and public health. They were to confer with Dr. Emmons, Mr. Greene, Mr. Carl Carstens and Miss Mary Beard, to accept funds that might be donated, disburse them by hiring an agent

“to assist in the dissemination of information, and of the carrying on of any function of the society, in public health work, legislation, social service, or similar departments of effort.”

The work was to be carried on under the charge of the committee on public health. The trust fund that was raised amounted to about five thousand dollars; in the treasurer's report for the year 1916 there had been received from this fund \$646.98; in the succeeding year, \$589.71 and in 1918, \$431.06. Once more this fund figured in the treasurer's report in the year 1919 when it is credited with a balance of \$452.25 on January 1 of that year, and with the payment during the year of a like amount under the control of the standing committee on public health. An agent was procured; he began a canvass of the state in the Barnstable District, urging the appointment of medical men as health officers, promoting cordial relations between the state department of health and the rural communities and stimulating interest in public health problems. Dr. M. J. Rosenau was chairman of the committee on public health. Mr. E. A. Ingham, a graduate of the Department of Biology and Public Health of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, began his duties as agent in June, 1916. Besides working on the Cape he studied problems in Beverly and in Woburn. In June, 1917, Dr. E. H. Bigelow of Framingham took over the chairmanship of the committee on public health and has continued in that office since. In September of that year there was held a convocation and school for public health officials, a four days' session in the quarters of Harvard and Tufts medical schools and in the buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was arranged by Mr. Ingham and was well attended. Unfortunately Mr. Ingham was called to California to accept the position of district health officer, his place being taken by Mr. C. E. Turner, an instructor at the Institute of Technology; Turner soon left to act as sanitarian for the United States Shipping Board. However, a second session was held in May, 1918, in Huntington Hall, Boston, with an attendance of 225, thirty-nine towns and





SAMUEL BAYARD WOODWARD



twenty-two cities being represented, addresses being made by the governor of the state and by the mayor of Boston.

In the year 1919 the public health committee arranged for a list of speakers on health topics, assigning them to the district medical societies which expressed a desire to have such speakers at the meetings of their societies. The committee arranged a public health demonstration in Springfield that was a great success; it lasted two days, addresses being given by the governor, by the mayor of Springfield and by the president of the Massachusetts Medical Society besides the state commissioner of health, by Dr. Victor G. Heiser, Director for the East of the International Health Board, by C. E. A. Winslow, Professor of Public Health at Yale and by other noted speakers. The committee on public health has continued to furnish speakers on health topics to the district societies and has recently put forward plans for increased activities in the rural communities, looking toward the employment of another agent.

In the year 1915 the first report on the working of the malpractice act was presented to the council by Dr. G. W. Gay. This was a report for the first seven years and is to be found referred to in the chapter on "Malpractice Defence." Yearly reports were submitted to the council for many years after this first report, being prepared by the secretary and presented by Dr. Gay.

The ever-recurring subject of employing legal representatives to look out for the interests of the medical profession at the State House came up in 1915 and was the subject of majority and minority reports at the October meeting. The majority of the committee was opposed to engaging legal talent to assist before legislative committees in taking care of legislative matters affecting the society, for the reason that many years ago the committee on state and national legislation had been told by the public health committee of the legislature that it was inadvisable to employ counsel; that the committee of that time had confidence in the disinterested attempts of the medical profession to advance the interests of the public health; they believed in the medical profession but not in paid advocates. Since that time it had been the policy of the committee on state and national legislation to attend to legislative matters in person, and not by agents; this policy had been effective and a majority of the special committee of the council which had been appointed to consider the matter in the year 1915, recommended that such a policy be adhered to. The



council adopted the majority report though the one minority member thought that by employing a lawyer who was expert in combatting the "wiles of unscrupulous lawmakers" more results might be obtained.

The plan of publishing in the proceedings of the council all reports of committees in full, without abridgment, was inaugurated at the annual meeting in 1916 and has been continued since, a matter that has interested the secretary as a step in the direction of completeness, a proceeding that will be an aid to the future historian of the society, if any such there be. In the same line the manuscript records of the society and council, from 1781 to 1823, also the Statute or Charter Book, never before copied or printed, were typewritten with a carbon copy in this year 1916, through the generosity of the president, Dr. S. B. Woodward. Beginning in 1826 the records of council and society had been printed in abbreviated form continuously up to the present. There existed no record whatever of the early doings of society and council except the four original manuscript record books covering the first forty-five years of the life of the old society; the record books being kept in the steel safe in the vault at the Boston Medical Library. Should anything happen to these volumes the entire first years would have been blotted out. Now the story is perpetuated in duplicate in four volumes, two of the society and two of the council, the latter including the "Charter Book," so that should one set be lost the other will be available.

The year 1916 saw the beginning of a special committee on industrial health insurance which has continued its existence up to the present, though of late it has not been active. The Massachusetts legislature appointed a recess committee in that year to study the subject of health insurance, and bills were introduced into the legislatures of Massachusetts and New York. The interests of the medical profession needed safeguarding, for a movement was on foot to have the state take over the care of the health of the community, it appearing then that laws similar to those in Germany and England were about to be put on the statute books in this country. At all events, a strong propaganda was at work, much literature had been put out and active lobbies were maintained at the state capitals. The first committee appointed by the council, June 6, 1916, was: F. J. Cotton, W. H. Merrill and F. W. Anthony. A special meeting of the council on this subject was held December 20, 1916, the committee making a report, and

Dr. C. E. Mongan of Somerville addressing the meeting at length, closing with the following resolution, addressed to the Special Commission on Social Insurance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The resolution was passed unanimously:

*"Resolved, That realizing the importance of the proposed Health Insurance Laws for Massachusetts, and appreciating the great change that would come in the social conditions of the people of the State, and appreciating further the great rôle the medical profession would play in the proper administration of such laws, and feeling that the citizens of Massachusetts should be more fully informed as to the scope and meaning of the proposed legislation, we, the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society, assembled in meeting for the purpose of considering health insurance, most respectfully request that no definite plan on Health Insurance, or recommendation in regard to health insurance, be submitted to the Legislature until a further knowledge of the proposed laws be spread among the citizens of the Commonwealth."*

In February, 1917, a committee of twenty-three was appointed at the instance of Dr. Mongan, to consist of the president, secretary, the previous committee of three and one member from each district medical society, to be a committee on publicity to consider the necessity for health insurance. The committee organized with Dr. A. K. Stone, chairman, and presented its first report at the meeting of the council on June 12, 1917, through Dr. Mongan. The entrance of the United States into the World War in April, 1917, centered all activities in the prosecution of the war and health insurance faded into insignificance for the time. The committee maintained its organization up to June, 1922, and held itself ready to act on the reappearance of interest in the subject on Beacon Hill.

In something the same manner the committee on the workmen's compensation act, appointed in 1913, reported in 1916 and a new committee was appointed at the same time (June 6, 1916) headed by Dr. A. N. Broughton. It was enlarged in October of that year from a membership of five by the addition of the "Central Committee" of the "First Legislative Convention of Massachusetts Physicians," held at Worcester, September 20, 1916, the members of the central committee who were fellows of the society being added to the membership of the committee on the workmen's compensation act. The committee made suggestions for improvement of the act in its report in 1917 and maintained its organization until June, 1922.

A matter of importance accomplished in 1916 was a thorough



revision of Chapter V of the by-laws, having to do with the censors and supervisors. The amendments as worked out by the board of supervisors, after several meetings and the appointment of a special committee, were presented to the council at its stated meeting on October 4, 1916, by Dr. G. P. Twitchell of Greenfield, they were approved and voted on by the society at its annual meeting in 1917. The revision brought up to date several important provisions, defining that district secretaries should submit diplomas from medical schools that are unrecognized by the council to the standing committee on medical education and medical diplomas before a candidate is permitted to take an examination before the censors, thus obviating charges of injustice from those applicants who had taken an examination and passed, apparently, only to find that their credentials were not acceptable; a change in the time of holding the biennial examinations from the second to the first Thursdays in May and November, thus affording sufficient time in the case of the May examination to get in all the certificates of new fellows before the date set for the annual meeting, namely, the second Wednesday in June; and the adoption of formal application blanks for those desiring fellowship. One of these will be found in Chapter VIII, page 287. They have been found to lessen the labors of the district secretaries and to promote uniformity in all parts of the state.

The New Jersey Medical Society held its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary at Asbury Park on June 20, of this year, Dr. L. M. Palmer of Framingham representing the Massachusetts Medical Society, reporting to the council on October 4, that he had been hospitably entertained, had conveyed the good wishes of Massachusetts to the sister state and had brought back kindly messages from New Jersey, continuing the friendly relations begun by Jonathan Elmer, the president of the New Jersey society, in 1788.

At the close of 1916 (December 23) the Massachusetts Medical Society lost its treasurer, Edward Marshall Buckingham, who had given faithful service to the society for twenty years continuously, the longest period served of all the treasurers; Augustus Addison Gould served terms of fifteen years and two years, a total of seventeen, and Thomas Welsh served uninterruptedly for sixteen years, they being the nearest in length of service to Dr. Buckingham, who died of angina pectoris at the age of sixty-eight. Dr. S. B. Woodward referred feelingly to the loss the society had sustained in his remarks at the meeting of the council in February,





1917, and also to the loss of a recent president in the person of Charles Francis Withington, who had died in Boston, January 7, 1917, at the age of sixty-four.

The cancer committee of the society was appointed at the annual meeting of the society, June 7, 1916; it consisted of Edward Reynolds, Chairman, J. Collins Warren, R. B. Greenough, J. T. Bottomley, and E. P. Richardson. The committee made its first report to the council February 7, 1917, when it recommended state-wide opportunities for free laboratory diagnosis of pathological tissue besides favoring a widespread anti-cancer campaign among the laity along the lines laid down by the American Society for the Control of Cancer and arranging with the different district societies of the Massachusetts society to devote one of their meetings each year to the subject of the control of cancer. At the suggestion of the Massachusetts committee it was reappointed as a permanent committee of five, with the same membership, to report to the council yearly. This it has done, publishing a Cancer Decalogue in 1919, printing and distributing much literature on cancer, holding meetings with the district societies, a "cancer week" for the week beginning October 3, 1921, observed all over the country, and keeping up a commendable activity, the membership of the committee remaining the same.

A curious happening at the February meeting of the council in 1917 was the action of the council on a motion submitted by the committee on membership and finance that \$10,000 of the cash balance in the treasury be added to the permanent fund. The council voted that \$5,000 of the balance be devoted to the uses of the new committee of twenty-three on health insurance, which was inaugurated at this meeting, although it was not plain what use the committee might make of such a large appropriation. As a matter of fact this committee spent, according to the treasurer's accounts for the years 1918 and 1919, the sums of \$127.72 and \$9.49 for those years respectively. Therefore because of the diversion of half of the balance only \$5,000 was added to the permanent fund, instead of the proposed \$10,000. The lack of sound judgment in financial matters was illustrated again at the meeting in February, 1921, when, following an increase in the annual dues the previous year from six to ten dollars the treasury found itself with a balance of \$7,500. The question arose as to its disposal. At the meeting of the council in October, 1920, the plans of the committee of arrangements, which included an appropriation for financing the annual

dinner in the usual manner, had been accepted; the committee presented an estimate in February asking for \$2,955 to pay for the dinner. This was not accepted by the council and the committee was given only \$500, the balance, \$7,000, being voted to the district societies to be distributed as dividends, with the result that the committee of arrangements resigned, later reconsidered their resignation and arranged for a dinner that was the most poorly attended in the history of the society. The raid on the treasury was engineered by the district treasurers who affected to disbelieve in the value of the annual dinner to the society. Never before had the annual dividend been of a larger amount than \$4,500, usually from \$2,500 to \$4,000.

Immediately after the United States went into the World War, that is at the annual meeting in June, 1917, resolutions were passed encouraging the erection of reconstruction hospitals for the readjustment of cripples from the war, the leading orthopedic experts in the society taking part in the movement. It was proposed at this time to establish a chair of military medicine in the Harvard Medical School, a project that was destined not to come to fruition, however. The members of the society were urged to enter the service of their country, in the medical corps of the army or navy, a committee of five being appointed to coöperate with the government in securing enlistments. A resolution was passed at this meeting favoring national prohibition during the war; also the restoration of the regulations of the Navy Department concerning venereal disease prophylaxis. Although the matter of procuring enlistments in the medical corps of army and navy was the function of the Massachusetts State Committee, Council of National Defense Medical Section, organized under the United States Council of National Defense at Washington, the different members of the state committee were officers or active members of the state medical society, the secretary of the society serving as secretary of the state committee. According to a list of Massachusetts physicians in the medical corps of the United States army, navy, the Red Cross or British service during the great war, published by the state committee in August, 1919, after the close of the war, Massachusetts had offered a total of 1,721 men to these services, or 31.3 per cent of all the physicians in the state, including the women, those who were too old and the physically unfit. Of those who were offered commissions by the government 1,593 actually served, or 29 per cent of all in the state at that time, a most



creditable showing. The dues of the fellows of the society who were in service were remitted by vote of the council, February 6, 1918, and the district societies were asked to look out for the assessments of their members.

The effect of the war on the society is to be measured in a depleted treasury which made necessary the omission of the annual dinner in 1918, and in a lessened number of accessions to the membership list. For instance, the net gain for the year 1918 was only 23, making the total membership in June, 1918, 3689; the next year the net gain was only one; the accessions for the years 1918 and 1919 were respectively 89 and 92 as contrasted with an average of 182 for the ten years from 1912 to 1922. By 1920 the total membership had risen to 3822 and has continued to increase since, having passed the four thousand mark in 1922.

The status of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Boston was the subject of a report by the committee on state and national legislation to the council, June 3, 1919. The previous attempts of this medical college to gain recognition from the society have been described in the chapter on The Last Twenty Years of the Nineteenth Century. The attorney-general of the Commonwealth had recommended to the legislature of the year 1918 that the charter of this college should be revoked because of the filing of twelve or more sworn statements by students of the college alleging fraud and extortion, fraud in not providing the instruction advertised in the catalogue of the college, and extortion in withholding diplomas until additional payments of money beyond the published fees had been made. The matter interests us here only as showing the attempts made by the society to uphold the standards of medicine in the state, through its standing committee. The legislature did not revoke the charter of the college. At the legislative hearings the committee on state and national legislation spoke its mind freely on the results of its new investigation. The committee found that no improvement in the quality and quantity of the instruction given by the college had been shown.

A matter of interest in this year 1919 was the establishment of a Section of Diseases of Children, or Pediatrics, as it was called later, for papers and discussions at the annual meetings. This was a fifth section, the others at the time being Medicine, Surgery, Tuberculosis and Hospital Administration. Dr. John Lovett Morse was appointed by the council the first chairman of the section. It was not until 1922 that a sixth section was created at the instance



of Dr. Charles E. Mongan of Somerville, elected at the same annual meeting vice-president of the society. Dr. Mongan was made the first chairman of the new Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology, which had sprung into existence apropos of the agitation about maternal and infant welfare which had crystallized in the national Sheppard-Towner act of Congress, a law which provided instruction and propaganda as to the care of mothers and infants in states which accepted the act, the national government providing a part of the money for such teaching and the states which accepted the act, the remainder. The summer of 1920 had been occupied by an exhaustive study of the high maternal mortality in childbed and in infant mortality in Massachusetts by a commission appointed by the Governor, the president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Dr. Alfred Worcester being chairman of the commission. Finally the commission reported to the legislature in January, 1921, with a document of ninety-two pages, most thoroughly analyzing the situation, also a bill providing for state supervision of maternity and infant welfare by nurses, under the direction of the state department of health. The legislature referred the bill to the next general court.

The Massachusetts Medical Society appointed a committee on maternity and infant welfare at the February meeting of the council in this year, the committee consisting of seven members headed by Dr. W. P. Bowers. The committee has been active, has held many meetings and had reported at length to the council three times at the time of the annual meeting in 1922, having instituted investigations concerning maternal and infant mortality in Massachusetts and made an attempt to improve the mortality statistics kept at the office of the secretary of the Commonwealth. A final report was made to the council, in February, 1923, and the committee discharged.

A matter of considerable importance was a formal vote of the council in June, 1919, that the chairman of the standing committee on state and national legislation be requested to

"cooperate with the legislative committee of the Massachusetts Homoeopathic Medical Society in such a manner that all legislative matters shall be reported in committee hearing, and elsewhere if desirable, by the two committees acting jointly rather than separately."

Since that time the two committees have used a letterhead showing a joint committee of the two societies; work at the State House has



been facilitated and the influence of a united profession has shown itself during the appearances of members of both societies before the committees of the legislature on bills relating to the public health. The rift between the two societies that had broadened in the seventies of the nineteenth century, as described in a previous chapter, has at last closed with every indication that it will never reopen.

The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, the weekly periodical published since 1828, and the official organ of the society since 1914, was taken over under the following vote at the annual meeting of the council, June 8, 1920, the motion being made by Dr. W. P. Bowers:

"Whereas: It is believed that The Massachusetts Medical Society should own an official organ for the purpose of publishing its transactions and promoting interchange of opinions and the maintenance of medical literature, it is hereby

*Moved:* That a committee of nine members of this Society be elected with full powers to represent and act for The Massachusetts Medical Society, for the purpose of entering into negotiations with the owners of the BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL for the purchase of the said JOURNAL if the terms and conditions which may be submitted by the said owners meet the approval of this committee.

And, further, if the purchase of the said JOURNAL shall be consummated that this committee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to employ agents, make contracts and all other arrangements which may be deemed necessary by said committee in maintaining a medical journal.

The election of this said committee is hereby provided for as follows: Upon nomination by the President, three members of the Society shall be elected to serve for one year, three for two years and three for three years, and at each annual meeting of the Council, there shall be elected three who shall serve for three years.

This committee shall submit a report of its doings at the annual meeting of the Council. Any vacancy in this committee may be filled at any meeting of the Council."

In accordance with the terms of the vote the president nominated and the council elected the following committee of nine to carry out its provisions. The committee, it may be stated, has remained the same during the succeeding two years:

For three years: Homer Gage, *Chairman*, E. W. Taylor, E. C. Streeter.

For two years: R. B. Osgood, W. H. Robey, R. I. Lee.

For one year: Channing Frothingham, H. D. Arnold, J. S. Stone.

The report of this committee, February 2, 1921, is printed here

to show the editor who was selected, how the *Journal* was purchased and the society authorized by the legislature to publish it:

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF NINE

"The Committee has unanimously chosen Dr. Walter P. Bowers of Clinton to be the Managing Editor of the BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL, as soon as it is taken over by the Society.

Negotiations for the transfer of the BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL to the Society are under way and as soon as certain legal technicalities are complied with the transfer will be made, probably within a fortnight.

The counsel of the Committee of Nine advised specific authorization in the charter of the Society for the publication of a journal, in order that there might never be any question of the legality of this action. A bill was therefore introduced in the House of Representatives on petition of Alfred Worcester, Homer Gage, S. B. Woodward, George W. Gay, and Walter P. Bowers, seeking an enlargement of the powers of the Massachusetts Medical Society, specifically allowing it to publish a journal. This action had to be taken before January 15th, if it was to come before the present session of the Legislature. As such requests should properly originate with the Society rather than with any officers of the Society, the Committee requests approval of the action of the petitioners and a formal vote requesting of the Legislature the passage of House Bill No. 1124, enlarging the powers of the Massachusetts Medical Society and authorizing the publication of a journal."

James S. Stone, *Secretary*."

#### HOUSE BILL No. 1124

"Bill to enlarge the powers of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Section 1. The Massachusetts Medical Society is authorized to engage in the publication and distribution of a journal or periodical to be devoted mainly to medical and surgical science.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The foregoing bill has been filed with the Clerk of the House on the petition of Alfred Worcester and others."

The bill (House No. 1124) was passed by both branches of the legislature and signed by the Governor in March, 1921. At the next meeting of the council, namely, on May 31, 1921, the president stated that he had in his possession a receipt for the dollar paid for the *Journal* and the transfer papers, which he then gave to the treasurer for safe keeping. It is not necessary here to enter into the improvement of the *Journal* since it was taken over by the society; all are agreed that it has had a far better news service, better correspondence and live editorials on legislative matters, while the other features have been maintained as before. All hands have taken hold to make the *Journal* a going proposition.





The assumption by the society of the running of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* led to the raising of the annual assessment for fellows from six to ten dollars by vote of the council, June 8, 1920, for the year 1921. According to the treasurer's report for that year, the first full year of the running of the *Journal* by the society, it cost \$16,500. By vote of the council, May 31, 1921, the dues for 1922 were fixed at ten dollars for resident and six dollars for non-resident fellows. Thus far the membership has not fallen off in numbers and the interest in the official publication has increased, though many of the friends of the society feared the effect of assuming the ownership of a weekly medical journal at a time when strikes were rife among the printers, paper was dear and weekly publications like the magazines, which derive their chief support from advertising matter, were having a difficult time to make both ends meet. (See also the chapter on Publications.)

In a previous chapter mention has been made of the overhauling of the valuable papers and collections in the possession of the society at the Boston Medical Library Association in 1894. A committee of three, consisting of the secretary, treasurer and librarian was appointed in October, 1920, to perform a similar office. The committee reported, February 2, 1921, as follows:

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS IN THE VAULT

"We would respectfully report that each member of the committee spent some time looking over the papers belonging to his department. Subsequently the whole committee met and unanimously voted the destruction of certain papers belonging to the Society, which, in their judgment, were deemed of no value, and they rearranged the remaining papers. The Librarian saw to the destruction of the worthless ones at a later time.

By this action the number of documents in the vault of the Library is materially reduced and there is room in the chests belonging to the Society to care comfortably for the records which are of value and the material which will necessarily collect from year to year until a similar committee is again appointed.

A. K. Stone,  
W. L. Burrage,  
E. H. Brigham."

Delving into the past history of the Massachusetts Medical Society brought attention to several matters that needed consideration, in the light of present needs; one of them the Permanent Fund. This fund has been described in the chapter called Financial. At the meeting of the council on February 2, 1921, the chair-

man of the committee on membership and finance spoke of the vote that had been passed by the council on June 5, 1828, nearly one hundred years previously, with reference to this fund. The society had received in 1810 a gift from the Commonwealth of a township of land in the District of Maine, six miles square, because, as it was said, the society had incurred expenses and devoted a considerable portion of time to the "promotion of the laudable objects of their institution." This township was sold in 1823 and formed the nucleus of the "Permanent Fund." The vote of June 5, 1828, was as follows:

"That the Treasurer be directed to pay to the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in trust for the Massachusetts Medical Society, all monies which he may now hold, or may hereafter receive, belonging to the permanent fund of said society; the same to accumulate at compound interest, and to be subject to withdrawal at the most frequent periods allowed by the rules of said company, upon a regularly certified vote of the Counsellors of said society."

It being plain that the society could get a better return for its money so invested a vote was passed by the council rescinding the vote of June 5, 1828, on motion by the chairman of the committee.

Another matter was the amount of income the society was authorized to receive under the terms of its original charter of 1781. It appeared that Section 9 of Chapter 15, of the Acts of that year, fixed the amount of income from any real estate the society might have as not exceeding the sum of two hundred pounds and the annual income from any personal estate as not exceeding the sum of six hundred pounds,—eight hundred pounds altogether,—the pound being valued in silver at six shillings and eight pence per ounce. Manifestly as the society's income in the year 1921 exceeded twenty-seven hundred dollars some modification of the law was needed. The following year the council and the society voted to petition the legislature for an act bringing the society under the provisions of Chapter 120 of the General Laws of 1921 having to do with charitable corporations, by which property to the amount of two millions of dollars may be held. Later the counsel of the society, Mr. E. P. Saltonstall, gave an opinion that the legislature had passed acts in 1915 and 1917 whereby the limit of money that might be held under both special charters and general laws should be two million dollars.

A matter of considerable importance was inaugurated at the annual meeting in 1921, namely, group meetings of the district

medical societies. The proposition was brought forward by the president of the society, Dr. Alfred Worcester; it was introduced to the council by Dr. W. P. Bowers, who spoke of the advisability of making a more thorough organization of the medical profession of the state in order that greater influence might be exerted on medical legislation; he advocated concentrating the districts in six groups so that they might have the benefit of a free discussion of legislative matters and might communicate their views to the officers of the parent society, notably to the president, who is *ex officio* chairman of the standing committee on state and national legislation. At the annual meeting of the society the following fellows were appointed to arrange for group meetings, W. P. Bowers of Clinton, F. E. Jones of Quincy and A. P. Merrill of Pittsfield. The report of the committee in October, 1921, is appended, with the statement that the group meetings were a success and the opinion prevailed that they should be continued another year:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO ARRANGE GROUP MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT SOCIETIES

"The Committee appointed at the Annual Meeting, June 1, last, to try to arrange joint meetings of the District Societies for the purpose of enabling the President to confer with the members of the Society on matters relating to legislation and the affairs of the Society present the following report:

Letters were sent to the Presidents and Secretaries of the District Societies presenting a plan for meetings in six groups, *viz.*:

Group I. — Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin.

Group II. — Worcester, Worcester North.

Group III. — Middlesex South, Norfolk, Norfolk South.

Group IV. — Middlesex North, Middlesex East, Essex North, Essex South.

Group V. — Suffolk.

Group VI. — Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol South, Bristol North.

with the suggestion that Group I hold its joint meeting the first week of October, Group II the second week in October, Group III the third week in October, Group IV the first week in November, Group V the fourth week in October, and Group VI the second week in November.

Group I has arranged to meet in Springfield at the Kimball Hotel, on the seventh of October. Group II will meet at Clark University, Worcester, October 12 at 8.15 P.M. Group III will meet November 29 at the Tufts College Medical School. Group IV has been invited by Dr. Pettingill to meet at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Middleton November 2. Group V will meet October 26 at the Boston Medical Library. Group VI will probably be invited by Dr. Sumner Coolidge to meet at the Lakeville Sanatorium the second week in November.

It is probable that Plymouth and Bristol North Districts in Group VI will



coöperate in this plan, but Bristol South is reported as unfavorable; however, such members as might care to attend could do so, and therefore, the committee recommends that the meeting embracing the Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol South and Bristol North, meet as tentatively arranged by Dr. Coolidge.

Suggestions have been made that some interesting scientific papers be presented at each meeting in order to attract as many of the Fellows as possible so that the President and his committees may have a representative audience.

It will be advantageous to have a reporter appointed for each meeting so that any action taken may be published under authority.

W. P. Bowers, *Chairman.*

F. E. Jones.

A. P. Merrill."

The question of paying mileage to the members of the various committees of the society was reported on by the committee on membership and finance, in accordance with a previous vote of the council, at the October meeting of that body. The committee recommended and the council accepted the following:

"That mileage be paid to such members of standing and other committees as are willing to receive it, such mileage to be based on actual disbursement for travel to and from meetings."

No action was taken as to the mileage of the delegates of the society, although a vote passed in February, 1911, fixed what should be paid to the delegates to the meetings of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association; namely, whatever sum is expended in transportation to and from the meetings, up to one hundred dollars, provided the bill is approved by the president and is submitted within three months from the close of the meeting attended.<sup>1</sup>

An agitation was started in 1921 to have the society give its fellows indemnity insurance in addition to malpractice defence, for many fellows were not satisfied to rely on a verdict for the defendant after the defence by the society's attorney, preferring to have a guarantee that any verdict that might be found against them would be cared for by some indemnifying company. Under the terms of the charter of the society it was not authorized to undertake the insurance business, therefore it could not ally itself with a commercial insurance company. A three hundred per cent rise in insurance rates brought the matter forcibly before the

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<sup>1</sup> The Council voted in February 1923 that delegates to the House of Delegates A.M.A. should be paid their railroad fares to and from meetings, also their hotel and sleeping expenses during the meetings.

society, the cause of the rise apparently being due to the increase in the number of suits for malpractice that had been brought in the recent past against members of the medical profession. The president and secretary got into touch with the secretary of the New York State Medical Society and learned the details of the affiliation of that society with the Aetna Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, that began in May, 1921. At the October meeting of the council in that year a committee of five was appointed to investigate the insurance problem. The committee consisted of: W. P. Bowers, chairman, E. H. Stevens, P. E. Truesdale, E. A. Bates and A. P. Merrill. It reported at a special meeting of the council, November 9, 1921. Much of the report will be found in the chapter on Malpractice Defence. A large number of fellows thus far have taken policies with the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore, to their evident satisfaction. Malpractice defence has gone on as before, with a slightly reduced number of cases put in the hands of the society's attorney.

The three important happenings of the year 1922 have been the retirement of Edwin Howard Brigham from the office of librarian, after a service of thirty-seven years, a report on the medical cults by a committee consisting of Channing Frothingham, G. S. C. Badger and J. W. Sever, and the decision of the society to accept the invitation of the Berkshire District Medical Society to hold the annual meeting in 1923 in Pittsfield, just sixty years since the society had met outside of Boston, and in the same city.

These matters are as yet too close at hand to measure their importance; in fact history needs the perspective of time that the high lights and shadows may be appreciated at their true values. Glancing over the long story of the Massachusetts Medical Society it appears that it still performs the functions for which it was constituted by its founders in 1781. It now has the interest, affection and devoted labor of some of the best minds in medicine in the state, as it did in the beginning; it looks forward always to a raising of the standards both within the profession of medicine and in the relations with the public, which it constantly aims to serve. The society has been attacked by men of small vision, by the bolshevists, by those who sought personal profit and by those who were on the outside and were opposed to the government; it has risen triumphant from many an encounter with such enemies. May it go on into the future fighting its battles and bearing aloft the banner inscribed with "Natura Duce."

## BIOGRAPHIES

WALTER PRENTICE BOWERS (1855- ), the son of Charles Manning Bowers, a Baptist clergyman, and of Ellen Augusta Damon, was born in Clinton, Massachusetts, May 19, 1855. His education was received in the schools of his native town and from private tutors. Graduating from the Clinton High School and entering Harvard Medical School in 1876 he had, in addition to the usual acquirements, a considerable knowledge of pharmacy, acquired while working in the drug stores of Clinton and Leominster. Before and after taking his M.D. at Harvard in 1879 he served as assistant in the out-patient department of the Massachusetts General Hospital, under Dr. F. I. Knight, and Dr. John Homans, who was then doing his pioneer work in ovariectomy at the Carney and general surgery at the "General." Dr. Bowers settled as a general practitioner in Lancaster, Mass., in September, 1879; after a year in practice he accepted an appointment as senior assistant at the Worcester Lunatic Hospital, as the State Hospital was called at that time, but was forced to resign on account of impaired health in June, 1881. He then began practice in Clinton.

Dr. Bowers married Helen M. Burdett, daughter of Alfred A. Burdett of Clinton, on January 28, 1880. They have had no children. He served the town of Clinton two terms as selectman and was on the board of health for a similar length of time, subsequently becoming vice-president of the Clinton Trust Company. He has carried on a large general and consulting practice in Northern Worcester County while acting as surgeon to the Clinton Hospital; known to his friends as a hard worker who never spared himself when once his shoulder was put to the wheel. Since 1894 he has been president of the Clinton Hospital Association. It was in that year he was appointed by the Governor and Council a member of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, succeeding the late Edwin B. Harvey as secretary of that board in 1913 and carrying on an active campaign to advance the interests of medicine at the State House until his resignation from the board on March 1, 1922, subsequent to the reorganization of the commissions of the state and the placing of the board under the department of Civil Service and Registration.

Dr. Bowers was elected a councilor of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1898 and has been a member of that body ever since; in 1903 he became president of the Worcester District Medical Society and in 1911 he was appointed a member of the standing committee on State and National Legislation, advancing to the position of chairman the succeeding year on his election to the office of president of the society. Some of the important measures which were inaugurated during the two years of Dr. Bowers' presidency have been referred to in the chapter on Recent Times. Public spirit, persistency, tact, devotion to the interests of the society and tireless activity were some of the characteristics he displayed. He remained a member of the committee on State and national legislation, assisting materially with medical legislation at the State House, until June, 1919, for, like his predecessor, Dr. Harvey, he had become familiar with legislators and their ways; therefore and for many other reasons he was of far more value than an inexperienced man.



Since that date Dr. Bowers has served on many of the chief committees appointed by the council, frequently chairman, notably in most recent time, the committees on indemnity insurance, to arrange for group meetings of the district medical societies, for meetings of the New England state medical societies and on maternity and infant welfare.

When the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* showed signs of disintegration during the second decade of the twentieth century, after a long life of usefulness, Bowers championed the proposition for the society to take it over and publish it, finally reluctantly consenting to act as its managing editor, with all the labor that that meant, beginning his duties on April 15, 1921, the legislature having passed a bill in March, authorizing the society to publish a journal and the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* having been purchased for a dollar from its previous owners. Those who have been in close touch with the management of the society appreciate what Dr. Bowers has done to revivify the ancient weekly and to make it a suitable mouthpiece for the state medical society. Besides surmounting apparently impassable financial obstacles the journal has shown a constant improvement, printing an abundance of medical news, keeping its columns always open to anyone who knows how to write and the standard of the papers and editorials high, so that it is taking all the time a place of greater importance in the medical community.

Dr. Bowers is a member of various social clubs both in Clinton and Boston. He is a Mason, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and of the American Medical Association, to the congresses of which at Chicago during the months of March he has acted as delegate on many occasions.

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SAMUEL BAYARD WOODWARD (1853— ), the son of Samuel Woodward, a Worcester merchant and his wife, Lucy Elizabeth Rogers Treadwell, was born at Worcester, Massachusetts, August 24, 1853. Descended on his father's side from Henry Woodward, physician, who settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1653, his mother's people came from Thomas Treadwell who emigrated from England in the same ship with Henry Woodward and made Ipswich, Massachusetts, his home. The Woodward ancestors in America were Henry, John, John, Israel, Samuel, physician of Torrington, Connecticut, and the grandfather, Samuel Bayard Woodward of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and of Worcester, Massachusetts, the first superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, as it was called in its early years. Samuel B., the grandson, attended private schools until the age of twelve when he entered the Worcester high school, graduating in 1870 and entering Harvard College. Taking his A. B. in 1874 he went to the medical school where he received the degree of M. D. in 1878, after serving as house officer at the Boston City Hospital. The years 1879 to 1881 were spent in European study and travel, the medical centers of Dublin, London, Heidelberg, Vienna, Strassburg and Paris being visited.

On September 16, 1884 Dr. Woodward married Margaret, daughter of Ira Perley, chief justice of the supreme judicial court of New Hampshire. They have had no children. They live in Worcester and at their summer estate at Grafton.

Dr. Woodward's activities in life have been varied. Medicine claimed his chief interest. While in the medical school he was a member of the ancient

Boylston Medical Society and he then joined the state medical society of which he was to be a distinguished officer in the future. On settling in Worcester he became a member of the Worcester Society for Medical Improvement. At about this time, 1882, he was elected visiting physician to the Washburn Free Dispensary. From 1883 to 1888 he was pathologist to the Worcester City Hospital. In 1886 he was appointed visiting surgeon to the latter institution, filling the position until 1902. From 1888 to 1899 he was visiting physician to the Memorial Hospital and from the last date to 1909, visiting surgeon there. He served as visiting surgeon at St. Vincent's Hospital for five years (1896-1901), and finishing his terms of service at the City, Memorial and St. Vincent's, was consulting surgeon at each hospital.

One of Dr. Woodward's great interests was his trusteeship at the Worcester Insane Hospital, the institution of which his grandfather was superintendent for the first fourteen years of its existence. The grandson was an active member of the board from 1899 to 1914, when he resigned as a protest against the replacement of the unpaid State Board of Insanity by a paid board of three persons and the transference of all control, but not of all responsibility, from the unpaid boards of trustees to this central authority. He actively interested himself in promoting legislation which two years later replaced this board by the present Department of Mental Diseases, with a commissioner at its head.

This busy Worcester physician found time to keep in touch with medical matters outside his city and we find him a member of the governing body of the Boston City Hospital Alumni Association, its president in 1907; also president of the Harvard Medical Alumni Association from 1912 to 1915 and a trustee of the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society, 1895-1898 and 1907-1910. As regards the Massachusetts Medical Society, in 1902 he was elected president of the Worcester District Medical Society, one of the first two districts formed in 1804, and he became a councilor of the parent society the same year. On several occasions he served the society as delegate to the annual meetings of neighboring state medical societies. Other offices held were:— Member of the committee to procure scientific papers, 1888-1897; member of the important standing committee on ethics and discipline, 1911-1916; vice-president, 1914; president, 1916-1919, filling a third term in that office for the first time since 1862 when John Homans finished a three year service. The chapter on Recent Times describes some of the problems he handled during his presidency. For two years after relinquishing office he was the efficient chairman of the standing committee on membership and finance.

A list of the offices held by Dr. Woodward in his native city makes one wonder how he had time to go from meeting to meeting while carrying on an active practice. They are a tribute to his public spirit, to his ability and to his capacity for hard work, for he gave to no undertaking less than the required amount of labor. Here are some of them:—

- 1883-1884. Corresponding secretary Worcester Natural History Society.  
Treasurer 1885-1897. Trustee 1911-1922.
- 1885. Incorporator Worcester County Institution for Savings.  
Trustee and Member of Finance Committee 1892-1922.  
President, 1912-1922.

- 1886-1891. Treasurer Worcester District Medical Society.  
1888-1922. Member Worcester Club. President, 1919-1920.  
1891. Incorporator Worcester Mechanics Savings Bank.  
1895-1922. Member Worcester Chamber of Commerce, Director, 1917-1922, President 1921-1923.  
1895-1922. Director Worcester Gas Light Company.  
1896-1922. Director Washington Mills Emery Company. Vice-President, 1910-1922.  
1897-1922. Member Bohemian Club. President, 1905.  
1902. Life Member Harvard Union, Cambridge.  
1906-1922. Director Worcester Association for Relief of Tuberculosis.  
1906. Chairman Executive Committee Worcester Harvard Club. President, 1908-1909.  
1908-1922. Member American Antiquarian Society; Treasurer, 1917-1922.  
1910-1922. President Worcester Branch Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.  
1913-1916. Vice-President Trustees Memorial Hospital. President, 1916-1922.  
1914-1917. Director Worcester National Bank.  
1917-1922. Director Worcester Bank and Trust Company.  
1917. Member committees of Worcester Club and Worcester District Medical Society on War service, also of state committees of American Red Cross and Public Safety and of other committees of like nature.  
1918-1922. Member Executive Committee Worcester Bank and Trust Company.  
1919. Director Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce.  
1919. Director Massachusetts Society of Mental Hygiene.  
1919. President Massachusetts Society of Conference of Social Work.  
1920. President Alumni Association Worcester High School.  
1921. Chairman Citizens City Planning Committee.  
1922. President Massachusetts Child Welfare Association.

Dr. Woodward is a member of many clubs, both in Boston and in Worcester.

A man of positive convictions he has been ready always to stand up and be counted. With a figure of commanding presence, like all the Woodwards, he presides well — therefore has he been selected so often to act in that capacity. His ability to get along harmoniously with various classes of his fellow citizens is attested by the offices he has held and by the reflections. Every problem presented to his alert mind is considered at once. He has been a valued official to his native city and to the Massachusetts Medical Society.



## CHAPTER VIII

### MEMBERSHIP

FOR the first twenty years of the existence of the society the membership was limited to seventy fellows. According to the rolls in the "Statute Book" the number of fellows in 1802, the year before the reorganization of the society, when the membership became unlimited in number, was sixty-seven. The charter of 1781 provided for a small society that was to promote the cause of medical education, elevate its standards and through its censors furnish certificates to candidates for leave to practice. Previous to the incorporation of the society there were in the State no legalized methods of designating those who were "duly educated and properly qualified for the duties of their profession." There were thirty-one incorporators of the society in 1781; new fellows were elected by ballot from time to time by the society itself on nomination by the councilors. The society held three regular meetings a year; a quorum was eleven fellows; the council, whose duty it was to prepare business for the society, consisted of seven fellows who were elected at the annual meeting by the society, four constituting a quorum, the meetings of the council being held two weeks before each meeting of the society. In this manner the candidates for fellowship could be talked over and their qualifications canvassed by the council previous to the meeting of the society. It appears by the records that it was difficult to get into touch with prospective fellows from distant parts of the state; naturally it was next to impossible for fellows in the far-off counties to attend many meetings. The names of those who had accepted fellowship were reported to the society. These notes in the Statute Book are to the point:

"Giles Crouch Kellog" [an incorporator] "dismiss<sup>d</sup> at his own request," 1786; "1 June 1785. Chauncy Brewer, Springfield, did not accept." The last fellow to be admitted before the reorganization was James Jackson who was elected June 2, 1802. At this meeting exactly eleven fellows were present and the total

membership was sixty-seven, as already stated. Josiah Bartlett says in his annual discourse in 1810 (page 247, note E) that vacancies in the membership caused by death or other causes, were "filled with senior practitioners, in the respective districts, till the law of 1803."

It is well to keep in mind the distinction between fellows and licentiates. The act of the Legislature of 1781 granted "full power and authority" to the society, under penalty for refusal, to examine all applicants for leave to practice and to give "letters testimonial" or licenses to such as were found "skilled" and "fitted" for practice. At each annual meeting of the society five censors were elected whose duty it was to examine candidates for the practice of physic and surgery; the censors met on the day following the meeting of the society; three constituted a quorum; they gave the successful candidate a certificate of an approved form, which was signed by the examining censors and by the president of the society with the seal of the society affixed. From the beginning until 1850 some 692 licenses were issued. Of these 511 became active fellows and 3 were elected honorary members, the rest remaining licentiates. The method of electing the censors was changed in the later years but the principle of licensing remained in force for about seventy years. (See chapter on Licensing.)

After the year 1803 fellows of the society were elected by a majority vote of the council, instead of by the society, following a three months' nomination. A person so elected must subscribe to the by-laws or accept membership in writing within one year, or his election was void. Any practising physician or surgeon resident within the commonwealth could be elected a fellow and any person not practising or not resident within the state could become an honorary member. Until the year 1831 licentiates could become fellows after having been three years in practice and having signed the by-laws. In that year this provision was rescinded by the legislature. The method of taking in new fellows is thus described in the by-laws of 1837:

"Any licentiate of this society or doctor of medicine of Harvard University, or of the Berkshire Medical Institution, may obtain admission as a fellow into this society, as provided in the laws of the commonwealth, by either of the methods following: 1. He may apply to the corresponding secretary of this society and after exhibiting his letter of license or his diploma, as the case may be, he may subscribe a printed copy of the by-laws, to be kept by the corresponding secretary for that purpose; and the corresponding secretary shall

then give to him a certificate that he is entitled to a diploma of fellowship. Such a diploma shall be furnished to him by the recording secretary on the presentation of his certificate, or 2. He may apply to any counsellor of this society, when at a distance from the corresponding secretary, and present to the same his letter of license or diploma, as the case may be, and subscribe a printed copy of the by-laws belonging to such counsellor:" . . .

The by-law goes on to state that the councilor shall give the applicant a certificate who must transmit it to the corresponding secretary who proceeds as if the by-laws had been signed in his presence. At the end is this clause: "*Provided*, That every applicant under this law shall satisfy the person to whom he applies for the signature of the by-laws that he maintains a good moral character before he is permitted to sign the same." Toward such an end he had to present a certificate from some "known and respectable person" unless he was known to the secretary or councilor. The procedures just described were preliminary to final action by the council, which elected fellows after their nominations had been on file for at least three months. The minutes of the council contain frequent entries of fellows and honorary members being elected. It was only after an applicant's name had passed the council that he received a diploma. By 1843 men became fellows either by election or by "signing the by-laws in course," most of them in the latter way. Their names were recorded in the minutes of the council, under one head or the other. Although such a method of taking in members did not correspond exactly to the provisions of the statutes its legality was covered by the action that was taken by the council in accepting the names subsequently by vote.

In February, 1846, the corresponding secretary, D. Humphreys Storer, said to the council that there was a diversity of opinion in the minds of members as to the course that ought to be pursued by applicants for fellowship and asked that a committee be appointed to consider the matter. The committee, consisting of Samuel Morrill, Enoch Hale and Winslow Lewis, Jr., reported at the next meeting "That the power conferred by the by-laws on the corresponding secretary, and in certain cases on the counsellors, to admit members, is clearly restricted to the admission of such as are already licentiates of the society, or are entitled to the same privileges as licentiates by having received a medical degree at one of the colleges in the commonwealth, Harvard University and the Berkshire Medical Institution." In the case of a physician edu-



cated and licensed out of the state he should present his credentials to the censors; if he passed them he might become a licentiate, and in due course a fellow.

The way was opened for the election of the councilor by the members of the district societies instead of by the council itself,—a truly representative form of government,—by a report made to the council May 30, 1848, by John Ware, chairman of a committee of seven appointed at the previous meeting to consider what changes in the charter and by-laws might be necessary in order to improve the usefulness of the society. This followed a resolution by H. H. Childs of Pittsfield, the previous year, which had called forth lengthy majority and minority reports on his request that the “county associations” might form the basis of organization of the society, instead of a centrally controlled corporation. Dr. Ware’s committee thought that the councilors should be chosen by the fellows of the society in their several districts; that if they failed to elect, any vacancy was to be filled by the whole body of the councilors at their annual meeting; that the district societies should have the power of admitting persons to fellowship in their several districts, who should thus become fellows of the society at large and should receive from it their certificate of admission; but a common standard of qualification for admission should be established, to which all districts should conform and all admissions should be subject to the revisal of the council. The Legislature was petitioned for the necessary changes in the charter and by-laws, the act of February 18, 1850 giving the authority, and the by-laws of August 1 of the same year carrying into effect the provisions as to election of councilors and establishing the following rules as to membership:

“Any graduate of Harvard University or the Berkshire Medical Institution may become a fellow by signing the by-laws either with the recording secretary or with the secretary of one of the district societies. Anyone who has graduated in medicine at any other university, college or medical school, the course of study at which is fully equal to that prescribed by this society, shall be admitted a fellow on furnishing satisfactory evidence to any board of censors and signing the by-laws as above mentioned; and any person not having been graduated as doctor of medicine may sign the by-laws and be admitted a fellow, on passing a satisfactory examination before a board of censors in the several branches specified and possessing the following qualifications:

"He shall be a person of sound mind and of good moral character; shall be not less than twenty-one years of age; shall have such an acquaintance with the Latin language as is necessary for a good medical and surgical education; and shall have acquired the principles of geometry and experimental philosophy. He shall have studied three full years under the direction and shall have attended the practice of some respectable physician or physicians; during which time he shall have attended two full courses on anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia medica, midwifery and the theory and practice of medicine and surgery."

A provision was added that any respectable practitioner of medicine who had been in practice not less than fifteen years might be admitted a fellow previous to the year 1852 by the district medical society where he resided by a two thirds vote of the members present at a stated meeting.

The entries in the records of the council for the next years say: "The following members are reported to have joined the society since the last meeting of the councilors."

In June, 1857 the council received a communication from the Suffolk District asking that the charter and by-laws be altered so as to require that all candidates for fellowship be examined by the censors. After many votes had been taken at various meetings the following provision was passed by the Legislature March 5, 1859, and it was accepted by the society and incorporated in the by-laws of 1860:

"No person shall hereafter become a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, except upon examination by the censors of said society, and any person of good moral character, found to possess the qualifications prescribed by the rules and regulations of said society, shall be admitted a fellow of said society."

In the by-laws of that year there was a clause providing that "any person having been graduated as doctor of medicine at Harvard University, or the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall, if otherwise qualified, be admitted without further examination as to his medical attainments." The fact that this provision did not conform to the act of the Legislature was not grasped until a committee of the council reported, October 5, 1870, that it should be struck out. Accordingly it was deleted at an adjourned annual meeting in that year. The Berkshire Medical Institution having gone out of existence in 1867 there were no further graduates from that medical school to provide for by a special exemption.

During the seventies the society took in about seventy new



BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY AT 8 THE FENWAY, 1922. PRESENT HEADQUARTERS





fellows every year. The total membership in 1875 when F. W. Goss, then not thirty-three years old, was elected recording secretary, was 1863. Goss was to serve the society for thirty-four years. With the assistance of F. W. Draper, whom he succeeded, he began to straighten out the membership at the first annual meeting when 112 fellows who had at various times removed from the state, were "dropped as they had not punctually paid the annual assessment and were delinquent from three to thirty-five years." It seems strange now that the membership should have been allowed to get into such an ill-ordered state. A paragraph in By-Law VI, of the revision of the by-laws of 1874, reads "that any fellow removing out of the state may have liberty to retain his fellowship so long, and only so long, as he punctually pays the annual assessment." Previously the by-laws had not referred to the status of members who were out of the state. At the succeeding meeting of the council in 1876, it was voted to drop from the rolls 407 more names of those who had surrendered their fellowship by removing from the state or were delinquent. Subsequent to this time the membership list has been kept trued up by action of the council at nearly every meeting, on names presented by the committees on membership, for suitable decision, whether to be allowed to resign, to retire or be deprived of the privileges of fellowship for non-payment of dues. Assessments have been remitted by the council on recommendation of the standing committee on membership which had studied the facts in a given case. In the by-laws of 1874 there was a clause which provided that if a member was in arrears for five years he might be dropped for non-payment. There the term of five years remained until 1897 when it was changed to three years. By the by-laws of 1913 the period of three years was made applicable to resident members only, non-resident fellows might be deprived of the privileges after one year's default, provided, of course, they had received not only a bill from the treasurer but also a notice from that officer that they were likely to be dropped unless they paid up.

The history of membership of recent years has had to do with the development and perfection of the system of handling the examination of candidates for fellowship. In the year 1894 a committee consisting of the president and one member from each of the eighteen districts, presented to the council a scheme for a board of supervising censors. This was to insure uniformity of examinations in the different districts. There had been several

attempts in the years just previous to 1894 to bring this about, but without success. There were five censors in each district, elected at the annual meeting of the district society, at some date between April 15 and May 15, each year. By the new arrangement one of these censors, who must be also a councilor, was to be designated a supervisor; thus there were eighteen supervisors, one for each district of the state; the board held an annual meeting and appointed a committee to prepare examination papers besides talking over all matters having to do with membership. The plan has been perpetuated to this day and works well. Even though the written examination was discontinued in 1915 the committee of the supervisors makes a new examination paper for each set of examinations, held now on the first Thursdays of May and November, and the censors use these papers in examining the candidates, the secretary of the society attending to procuring the papers, having them printed and distributed to the censors.

In the chapter on Licensing reference has been made to the penalty imposed by the Act of 1803 upon censors for failure to attend meetings for the examination of candidates — "every censor who shall neglect or refuse to attend these meetings for examination of candidates, without offering an excuse which shall be satisfactory to those who do attend, shall pay a fine of ten dollars for the use of the society." In this connection we are interested to read in the treasurer's report for the year 1890 that a censor was fined five dollars for neglect of duty and in each of the reports for 1901 and 1902 there is a notation that a censor was fined five dollars for non-attendance at an examination, and this was after the days of censors' examinations held for the purpose of licensing for practice, simply examinations conducted for admission to fellowship.

The method of getting into the society may be sketched in detail as follows: A prospective member applies to the secretary of the district in which he has a legal residence. If not a citizen of Massachusetts he applies to the secretary of the Suffolk district. Sometimes he applies to the secretary of the general society; in that event he is given an application blank that was adopted by the board of supervisors in 1915 and is referred to the district secretary. Copies are in the hands of all district secretaries. One is printed here.



## The Massachusetts Medical Society

### APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

Name,.....

(Write out in full all names)

Age,.....Sex,.....Birthplace,.....

Present Address,.....

Academic education, school or college,.....

Medical education,.....

(Write in full name of medical college, and give date of diploma)

Hospital internship,.....

*If in practice:* Location,.....How long, .....

Previous location of practice, if any, .....

With whom associated,.....

Assistant or partner,.....

Specialty, .....

Appointments to hospitals or other medical positions,.....

Reference to other members of the profession or to other persons, .....

This blank, which is issued by the Board of Supervisors, when duly filled out, should be presented in person to the secretary of the District Society in which the applicant has a legal residence, together with the medical diploma, or written evidence that the applicant has received it, at least one week before the date of a given examination by the Censors. District secretaries will furnish full information as to the time and place of the examinations and the requirements for fellowship.

The applicant shows the district secretary his diploma in medicine or a written evidence that he has received one; diplomas must be on the list of medical schools or colleges that is approved by the council every few years, or if not on the list they are referred to the chairman of the standing committee on Medical Education and Medical Diplomas for a ruling, for often a college has been absorbed by another college, or it was on the approved list when the candidate graduated. Now and then a candidate who has graduated at an inferior school may obtain admission after he has been in practice in a given locality for at least five years by presenting letters from his confreres in the society who know him well and vouch for him, these letters being sent with the candidate's diploma to the standing committee on medical diplomas for a decision, before the candidate is allowed to take an examination. Every district secretary, who is also secretary of his board of censors, has a copy of the last revised list of approved medical colleges, a book for the signatures of applicants for fellowship, and certificates, to show the action of the censors in each individual case, for transmission to the secretary of the society after any examination is over.

When a candidate has made application the district secretary looks up his record in his community so that he may communicate it to his censors. At the stated time an examination is held in each district, three of the five censors being a quorum to transact business; the secretary attends and manages the details for the supervisor who has charge. Here are the recommendations of the supervisors in conducting the examinations:

1. — In conducting the oral examination the object is to determine the desirability of the candidate as a member, not merely to test his knowledge.
2. — Recent graduates may be required, in fairness, to pass a thorough examination in general medicine.
3. — Those who have been graduated five years or more may properly be examined with more latitude; the questions being adapted, as far as possible, to cover the field of medicine in which the candidate is engaged.
4. — In exceptional cases the candidate may be entirely out of practice and no longer qualified to pass a rigid examination; yet because of his general character and interest in the advancement of medicine he may be a very desirable addition to the Society. In such instances the Censors may properly exercise considerable discretion in passing the candidate.
5. — In all cases where there is a substantial doubt as to the desirability of a candidate a thorough oral examination may prove helpful in disclosing sufficient cause for rejection.
6. — One half the total mark should be assigned to personal qualification for membership, and one half to evidence of professional quali-

fication. Of the latter at least 60 per cent of the answers should be correct.  
7. — *The report on the result of the examination should be made to the Secretary of the Society not earlier than one week nor later than ten days after the examination. This opens the way for inquiries to supplement information obtained before the examination, and yet enables the Secretary to receive the certificates from the District Secretaries promptly.*

Attention is called to the last clause, for it has been found in practice that an interval between the examination and the certification to the secretary of the general society gives valuable opportunity to look up a candidate's personal record and in this way obviate mistakes which arise from hasty action.

### The Massachusetts Medical Society

.....Mass.....19  
(residence of secretary.) (date of signing certificate.)

To the Secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

*I hereby certify that*

.....  
(write all names in full.)

....., office .....  
(legal residence, name of town.) (street and number; if in another town give name of town.)  
*having received a degree in medicine from*

.....dated .....  
(write title of college exactly as given in the list of medical colleges approved by Council.)

*passed an examination satisfactory to at least three of the Censors for this District present at the meeting held on.....  
and has also paid the assessment for the Society's current financial year, and has signed the agreement to comply with the By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the Massachusetts Medical Society.*

.....  
Secretary of the Board of Censors  
for the.....District.

#### NOTE TO SECRETARIES.

The Society is dependent on this certificate for the correctly spelled names of a new fellow, and for both the legal residence and office address. Please take pains and write plainly; keep a supply of blanks on hand by sending postal card to secretary.



A certificate that a candidate has passed successfully an examination by at least three censors of any district must be sent to the secretary within one month after the examination. If the examination is the first Thursday of May all certificates will be in the hands of the society's secretary before the annual meeting, and the list of new fellows can be reported to the society at that meeting. When the certificate reaches the secretary's office a check list is made, a diploma is engrossed and signed by the president and secretary, if they know of no reason for withholding their signatures. Now and then censors have made mistakes in certifying to a candidate, and in that event the facts have been communicated to the president and he has refused to sign the diploma and the candidate did not become a fellow. When the diplomas have been sent out by first-class mail the names are entered on the secretary's official list of fellows, the treasurer and the American Medical Association are notified, and the process is complete. To provide against error and fraud only one diploma is issued to each new fellow; after that, certificates of fellowship are issued on request. The method of taking in new fellows makes sure a careful supervision of the membership at the central office of the society. No person can obtain membership except by the regular procedure. No one can go out, except by death, unless his name has been acted on by the council. By the system in vogue the list is constantly being kept accurate.

As regards the numbers included in the membership of the society we have seen that just before the reorganization in 1803 there were 67 fellows; by 1807 the printed roster showed 184 active and retired fellows and 17 living honorary members. The further growth of the membership is shown by the accompanying table prepared from the catalogues and directories, ten-year periods being selected, so far as possible, the main carefully prepared lists being used rather than the supplementary lists that were issued in the intervening years. From 1804 on, the lists were issued irregularly until 1858 when they were published yearly until 1875; then every three years until 1911. In that year an annual directory, giving, besides the cities and towns, the street addresses in the alphabetical list, appeared for the first time and has been printed yearly since. The local directory, begun in 1896, and the statistical summary, in charge of the librarian until 1922, have been continued each year.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY FROM 1804 TO 1920

Compiled from the Printed Lists

Year	Active	Retired	Honorary	Removed from the State	Total, omitting honorary	Remarks
1804	117	...	13	...	117	By counties.
1807	172	9	17	3	184	Alphabetical list.
1813	239	16	17	4	259	" "
1819	305	26	17	13	344	" "
1829	320	56	8	85	461	" "
1840	607	49	58	115	771	{ By counties. Separate list of "Removed from the State."
1848	798	96	55	209	1103	{ By counties, also alphabetical.
1854	848	116	50	282	1246	{ Alphabetical lists this year and in future.
1865	908	130	36	...	1038	{ Includes those Removed from the State who had retained membership.
1875	1342	136	19	385	1863	
1884	....	...	..	...	1534	{ No marks to show retirement, honorary membership or removal from the State.
						{ 519 non-resident delinquents were dropped in 1876.
1894	1831	96	7	...	1927	{ "Local Directory" begun in 1896.
1905	2800	100	3	...	2900	{ Annual Directory, with street addresses begun in 1911.
1915	3383	140	1	...	3523	
1920	3649	124	1	...	3773	July 31, 1920.

Honorary membership was instituted at a meeting of the society "at the hall of the Manufactory House in Boston" October 30, 1783 when the following were elected honorary members: Ammi Ruhamah Cutter, Hall Jackson and Joshua Brackett, all of Ports-

mouth in the State of New Hampshire, Mons<sup>r</sup>. Feron, first surgeon and physician of the French fleet in North America and of the King's Hospitals at Boston.

Dr. Cotton Tufts was a committee of the council to draw up regulations "respecting honorary members" and in accordance with his report the society voted, April 14, 1784:

"That by the term Honorary Members shall be understood such fellows of this society as are not inhabitants of this commonwealth; These shall have the right of speaking and voting, (when present at any meeting of the society) upon any question of science, as other members have, and shall have and enjoy the rights and privileges in general which other members have."

The vote goes on to explain that honorary members shall not be subject to assessment, shall not hold office and shall have no vote or suffrage in any money matter.

Up to 1803 twenty honorary members had been elected, according to the record in the Statute Book, including Benjamin Rush, John Morgan, William Shippen, Adam Kuhn, John Jones, Lemuel Hopkins and John Coakley Lettsom of London. No honorary members were elected under the new charter until 1807 when Benjamin Vaughan, of Hallowell, Maine, became a member; in 1909 Nathan Smith's name was added; from 1810 for several years members were elected and the custom prevailed to make active fellows who had reached an advanced age honorary members, as in the case of Isaac Rand, Junior, who was made honorary at the age of seventy-one in 1814, and Erastus Sargeant of Stockbridge in the same year at the age of seventy-two. Up to 1894 there had been elected one hundred and forty-five honorary members, only seven of them being alive at that date, the list including many of the important names in medicine both in this country and abroad. Since 1894 only one name has been added to the list, Beverly MacMonagle of San Francisco, who was made an honorary member in 1907 and died in 1912. In 1896 the society had six honorary members; one of them, George Lincoln Goodale of Cambridge, elected in 1892, died in 1922. He was the only honorary member of the society in 1920, the others in 1892 being, Henry W. Ackland, of Oxford, England; Andreas Anagnostakis, of Athens, Greece; Sir James Paget, of London, England; Joseph Sapolini, of Milan, Italy; and Gerassime Phocas, of Athens, Greece.

In recent time one or two attempts have been made to nominate honorary members but they came to nothing and the old custom



lapsed until 1922 when General Leonard Wood was elected an honorary member.

The first provision looking toward the creation of retired fellows is to be found in the By-Laws of 1826 although names were marked as retired as early as 1807. The provision is as follows:

"Those whose resignation has been accepted shall have their names in the list of fellows of the society distinguished by a peculiar mark; they shall be excused from the ordinary duties of fellows; but may attend meetings of the society, and vote thereat; and they shall be entitled to receive the publications of the society, in the same manner as ordinary fellows."

In the By-Laws of 1832 this clause read:

"Those fellows who have resigned the fellowship of this society with the permission of the counsellors, shall, while living, be distinguished in the printed list of the society by a peculiar mark (a dagger); they shall also be entitled to all the privileges of the fellows, and shall conform to all the requirements of the society, and be subject to all its penalties, except that they shall not be liable to assessments, nor shall they be bound to accept any office in the society."

The same clause appeared in the By-Laws of 1837. By 1840 an age limit appeared. Article VII begins:

"Those fellows who, after having arrived at the age of sixty years, have resigned the fellowship of this society with the permission of the counsellors, shall, while living, be distinguished by a peculiar mark, and shall be denominated *Retired Members*."

The rest of the article is the same as in the By-Laws of 1832.

Article X of the year 1850 as regards retired members has this form:

"Those fellows who have arrived at the age of sixty years, and have notified the treasurer of the society of the same in writing, having paid all their assessments, or having been excused from the same, may become retired members."

The rest of the article is as before. It was not until 1874 that the present age limit for retired fellows was adopted and incorporated in the by-laws. It was sixty-five years, the other provisions being the same. The present requirements and rules as to retired fellows are appended:

"Fellows who are sixty-five years of age, whose assessments have been paid or remitted, may, by vote of the council acting on a recommendation of the committee on membership and finance, become retired fellows. They shall be considered to be in good standing, and shall have the privilege of attending and addressing meetings of the society, but shall not be accorded other rights or privileges except that upon request to the librarian they shall receive the publications of the society. They shall not be subject to assessment. Appli-

cations for retirement should be addressed to the council and sent to the treasurer of the general society. Retired fellows may, on their own request, be restored by the council to active fellowship."

In the rules governing the society, adopted in 1850, we find this provision as to non-resident fellows: "Any fellow removing out of the state shall have liberty to retain his fellowship, on paying his assessment." This rule has persisted to the present day.

The matter of the diplomas given to new fellows of the society is an interesting one. During the first twenty years, the society being limited to seventy fellows, there was no need of a diploma. At all events there is no record of any such document being issued. The by-laws define the manner of election of new members and the amount of the annual dues but say nothing as to certificates of membership. In the chapter on Licensing is given the form of certificate issued to those who had been examined by the censors and approved by them.

After the reorganization we find in the by-laws of 1804 the following form of the printed certificate which was to be issued to the new fellow by the recording secretary after he had "acknowledged his acceptance according to law":

#### "COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

This may certify, that A.B, of C, in the County of D, was elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, on the            day of            A.D. and is entitled to all the honors and privileges of the Society.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the Society to be affixed, at            the            day of  
A.D. 18 .

*President*

Attest,

*Rec. Secretary."*

The report of the treasurer, John G. Coffin, dated June 1, 1814, has this to say regarding the making of a diploma plate:

"N.B. The extra expenses of the year past, about nine hundred dollars, have arisen from the publication of the Medical Papers of the Society, and the designing and engraving of a Diploma, or certificate of fellowship."

An example of this diploma, the one issued to David Townsend in this same year, has been reproduced from the original for this history and will be found facing this page.

Two years later, in 1816, the by-laws contained the following form for a diploma:

BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



Salutem Medica Massachusettensis

NATURA DUCIT.



Omnibus ad quos hac pervenerint

SALUTEM.

Quam Republicae Massachusettensis, humana auctoritas Societati  
Medicae Massachusettensis, salutem.

*(Name of the Republic)* *(Massachusettsensis)*, *(hominum auctoritas Societasque)*  
MEDICÆ MASSACHUSETTENSIS, *(sui et privilegium concessit, ut Medicum)*  
cultores, qui artem suam publicis edocendo, vel recte exercitando, sum-  
am honestam consuevit sibi: illis eligent et sibi socios adjuverunt:

NOTUM ESTO: quod his preceptis conquirendis, *(CONSILIARI)*  
*(Societatis Medicæ Massachusettsensis)* SOCIUM acciperunt Davidum Townsend, 189  
in oppido Bostonia, civitatis *(Boston)*, habitantem, rerum vita inde  
gerentem, atque modeste fortissimum, qui suis et auctori et doctori  
semper fuit: et quem Omnibus honoribus et privilegiis SOCIETATIS  
dignissimum iudicaverunt. ~

Quorum in Testimonium, sigillum Societatis affigendum dedit  
Atque meum apposuit BOSTONIAE, Die Mensis Martij  
Uniusque Salutes humane, Medicum Cingentissimum et decem quatuor.

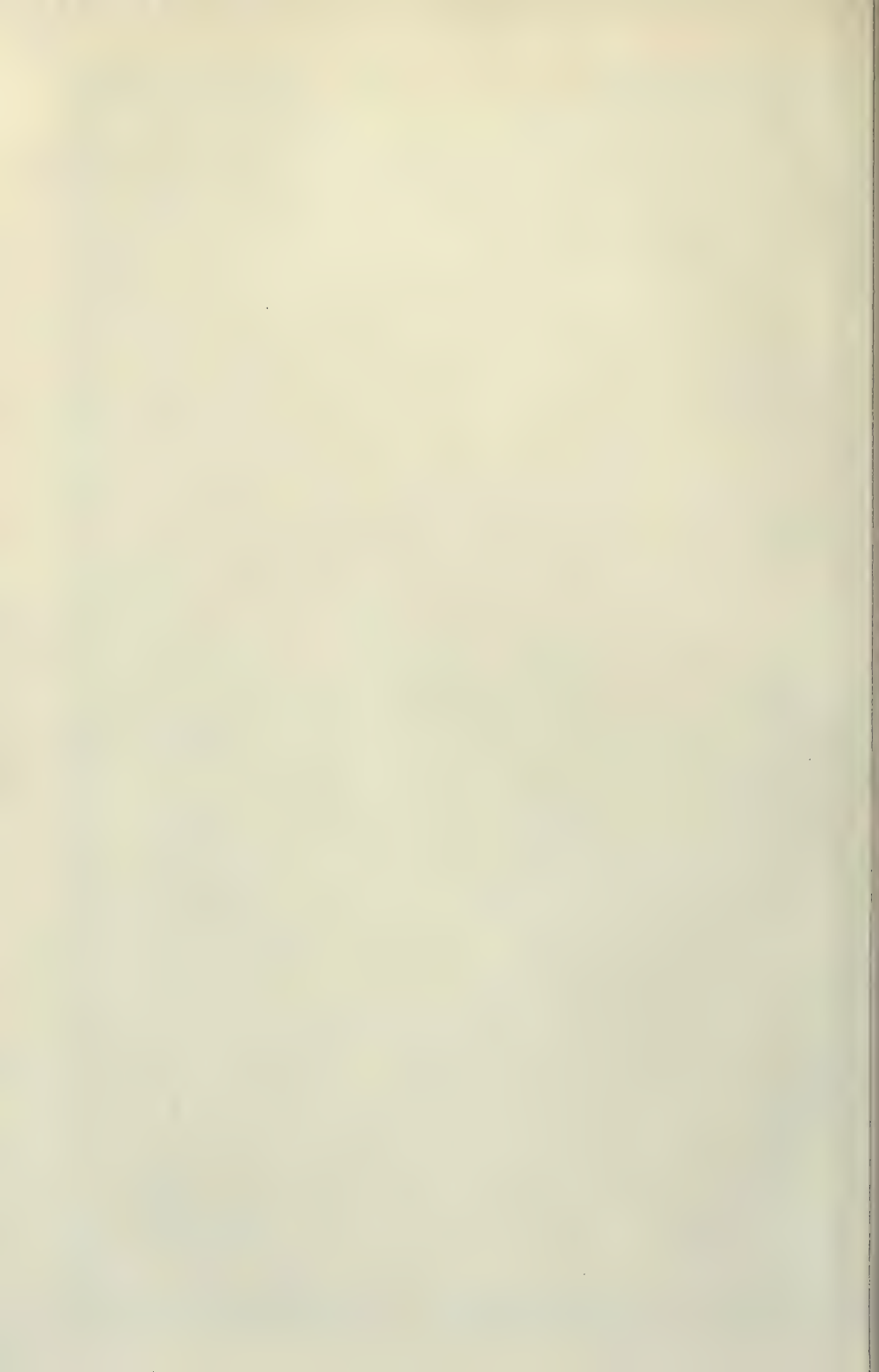
Attulit, Joh. C. Adams voc. - her.

Johannes Flower, M.D. Praes.



*(Signature)*







*"Societas Medica Massachusettensis.*

Omnibus ad quos haec pervenerint salutem. Quum Reipublicae Massachusettensis Summa Auctoritas Societati Medicae Massachusettensi jus et privilegium concessit, ut medicinae Cultores, qui artem fideliter ediscendo, vel recte exercitando, famam honestam consecuti sunt; illos eligerent et sibi socios adjungerent: Notum esto; quod his propositis exsequendis, Consilarii Societatis Medicae Massachusettensis Socium acceperunt in oppido

comitatu habitantem, virum vitae integerrimum, artisque medendi peritissimum, qui suis et auxilio et decori semper fuit; et quem omnibus honoribus et privilegiis Societatis dignissimum judicaverunt.

Quorum in testimonium, Sigillum Societatis affigendum dedi, nomenque meum apposui, Bostoniae, Die Mensis Annoque salutis humanae, millesimo octingentesimo et

Attestante,

a Secretis

PRAESES."

The above form of diploma was printed with the by-laws regularly with each successive issue until 1860 when it appeared for the last time. A note after the form said: "This diploma may be used for Fellows or Honorary Members, if they are physicians. If the candidate be a resident of another State, the word *comitatu* may be readily altered to *civitate*."

The diploma originated in the following votes of the council:

October 2, 1811: "Voted, That the recording secretary procure the execution of a copper plate engraving for diplomas for the licentiates of the Society." February 5, 1812: "Voted, That the diplomas ordered for licentiates be prepared for fellows instead of licentiates." At an adjourned meeting, February 19, 1812: "Voted, That the recording secretary prepare a Latin form of diploma for the copper plate engraving and report the same at the next meeting of the Counsellors or Society." February 3, 1813, "Voted, That the treasurer be authorized to deliver the new diplomas to the fellows."

In the records of the society of June 2, 1813, is this memorandum: "The Recording Secretary reported that in consequence of a delay of the engraver, the Society's diploma was not yet completed, and that it was uncertain when it would be ready for delivery."

Before tracing the practice of the society in issuing diplomas in later years let us consider briefly the diploma for honorary members. The council voted on June 5, 1834, "That the President of this Society [John C. Warren] be authorized to procure a suitable copper plate engraving of a Diploma for Honorary Members of the Society; and to cause as many copies to be struck off, as he may think proper." Such a plate cannot be found, nor an impression from it.

The report of a committee appointed to consider honorary and corresponding membership reported in a thirty-five page document on October 3, 1866, signed by Edward Jarvis and J. Mason Warren. Their comment on the election of twenty-eight honorary members at one meeting of the council in 1836, soon after the new diploma plate had been ordered, is not without interest. Here is a quotation:

"Again in 1836 the counsellors seem to be impelled with a new desire to extend their connection with the representatives of medical and surgical science abroad. They appointed a committee to consider the whole matter and to select such as they might deem proper candidates for the honorary membership of this society.

The committee were faithful to their trust. They seem to have surveyed the whole medical and surgical world, and selected all who in America, out of Massachusetts, and in Europe, should be honored with a membership of this society, or would honor it by the acceptance of such a connection. They proposed twenty-eight candidates, all of whom were elected by the counsellors at one meeting."

The greatest number elected in any one year, according to a table embodied in this report of 1866, had been 16, in 1830; next to this were 7, in 1787, and 6, in 1796; in no other year had more than four honorary members been elected, but at least one every year. This report recommended that a corresponding as well as an honorary membership be established. The entry in the manuscript record of the meeting of October 3, 1866 says:

"Dr. Jarvis, of Dorchester, read a valuable historical and statistical report on honorary membership, recommending certain changes in the mode of election. The report was accepted but no action thereon was taken."

The changes in the mode of election were that at least five counsellors should nominate a candidate and that the nomination should be referred to a committee consisting of the corresponding and recording secretaries, instead of to the committee on "membership and resignations," for a report back to the council, as defined in the revised by-laws of October, 1860. A nomination for honorary membership dated February 6, 1850 has been preserved in the files. It runs as follows:

"The subscribers nominate to the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society Dr. S. A. Arnold for admission as an Honorary Member. He was educated at Brown University, is president of Rhode Island Medical Society and has been in practice more than twenty years, and has a reputable standing in the Profession.

Signed.

Jacob Bigelow  
Johnson Gardner  
John D. Fisher"

The minutes show that Dr. Arnold was elected an honorary member subsequently in due course.

The present diploma plate for honorary members was made in the office of the William H. Brett Engraving Company at 30 Bromfield Street, Boston, about 1867 by an engraver named Boynton, according to the testimony of Mr. J. H. Elwell, who has been employed in that office for thirty-three years. The engraver's name is on the plate. It was made in accordance with the following vote of the council, passed February 6, 1867:

*"Voted, That the Treasurer and Secretaries be authorized to procure a new plate for diplomas for honorary membership, whenever, in their opinion, the funds of the Society will warrant it."*

By the by-laws passed in May, 1849 there is a provision in Article VII that "every Fellow shall be entitled to a diploma, in the following form (Usual Form)." The diploma was in Latin and there is a note that "This diploma may be used for Fellows or Honorary Members, if they are physicians." Therefore it would appear that no plate for honorary members was procured in 1834 or subsequently but that the same plate, engraved in 1814, was used for both active and honorary members. In 1866 the council fixed the fee for the engraved diploma for fellowship, i.e., from the plate of 1814, as five dollars (Proceedings of the Councillors, May 29, 1866). In the by-laws of 1860 the fee was one dollar. In 1866 the secretaries of the district medical societies began the issuing of certificates to new fellows. These were signed by the censors who had conducted the examination of the candidate and by the president and recording secretary of the parent society and sealed with the society's seal.

Apparently there was a certain laxity in having the signatures of the president and secretary attached, for at least one of these certificates is extant on which such signatures are missing.

These certificates of membership issued by the censors of the different districts were all the diplomas the new fellows received, except those who paid a fee for the large engraved diploma, a relatively small number judging by the treasurer's reports from year to year, until the board of supervising censors was established February 7, 1894, as described in Chapter V. At that time — about 1895 or 1896 — the present diploma plate was engraved by a man named Grady, in the office of the William H. Brett Engraving Company, in Bromfield Street, Boston, as confirmed by a letter



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from Mr. Grady in New York in November, 1922. Diplomas from this plate were engrossed, signed by president and secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and given to each successful candidate for fellowship by the secretary of the parent society, in this way centralizing the conferring of certificates of fellowship at the headquarters of the society itself rather than in the districts.

CERTIFICATE FOR NEW FELLOWS  
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

WE, THE CENSORS

For.....District,

Hereby Certify, that

.....  
of.....having fulfilled  
all the requirements of the By-Laws, is admitted a

Fellow of the Society

Dated at.....  
this.....day of .....  
.....A. D. eighteen .....  
hundred and ninety.....

BY VIRTUE of the power vested in me, I  
have caused to be set hereunto the Seal  
of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Witness,

.....  
President.

.....  
Recording Secretary.

The by-laws of 1897 have this clause:

"III. Every Fellow on admission to the Society shall receive from the Recording Secretary a certificate of membership, signed by the President and Recording Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the Society."

The first seal placed in the bottom of the diploma plate represented Aesculapius standing with his caduceus, in the foreground, and the wounded hart, pierced by an arrow, in the background. The seal was round, rather than oval, like the original seal. It was so badly worn in 1913 that the secretary had a new seal introduced, a redrawing of the original seal. This has proved to be too dark and not altogether satisfactory in its drawing. Diplomas from this plate are given new fellows when they have completed all the requirements for membership. The diplomas are sent out by first-class mail and only one is made for each new fellow, unless, in rare instances, the diploma has been injured in the mail and has been returned in damaged condition to the secretary. In that event the spoiled diploma is destroyed and a new one engrossed. Such care in issuing diplomas was established by the late E. B. Harvey, president in 1898-1900, to prevent fraudulent use of a diploma that might have changed hands after it was issued. Should a diploma be lost or not available to prove fellowship the secretary issues a certificate in the following form:

## The Massachusetts Medical Society

### This Certifies

that.....M.D.  
 of.....became  
 a Fellow of The Massachusetts Medical Society in the  
 year.....and is now in regular  
 standing.  
 Boston,.....'19

SEAL OF  
 THE SOCIETY

Secretary.

These certificates are in frequent demand to obtain membership in state medical societies, county medical societies, the medical corps of the Navy and other organizations.

The question of the process of admitting to membership those fellows who had been "dropped from the rolls" or "deprived of the privileges of fellowship," or those who had resigned, is not without interest. In the early days resigned fellows who wished to be readmitted to the society had their names brought before the council by the "committee on resignations," and they were readmitted by vote of the council. In the year 1859 the state legislature passed an act, which is still in force, by which "No person shall become a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society except upon an examination by the censors of said society." At a meeting of the council, October 7, 1908, the committee on membership and finance, the successor to the committee on resignations, reported that they had received a petition of a member who had resigned, to be reinstated in fellowship. The report said that the question had been raised whether one whose resignation had been accepted by the council could be reinstated by vote of that body. The opinion of legal counsel had been obtained and it was his opinion that the statutes of the Commonwealth respecting the Massachusetts Medical Society were explicit, that no person could become a member except upon examination by the censors. When a member's resignation had been accepted he was as much outside the society as he was before he had joined, therefore he must join again. Since that time all members who have resigned appear before the censors. Naturally the censors do not examine former members rigorously but determine in the least formal manner that the applicant for readmission still possesses the requirements for fellowship.

Fellows who had not paid their dues were "dropped from the rolls" by vote of the council, on recommendation of the standing committee having such matters in charge. This was the practice from earliest times. In 1876 there was a general cleaning of the lists and at the annual meeting of the council in that year we find a recommendation of the "Committee on Membership and Resignations" as follows:

"That one hundred and twelve Fellows, who have at various times removed from the State, and are named in the following list, be dropped, as they have not 'punctually paid the annual assessment' and are now delinquent from three to thirty-five years."



At the succeeding meeting, namely, on October 4, 1876, the council dropped four hundred and seven fellows, for similar reasons.

When the Digest of the Laws of the Commonwealth was revised by the lawyer, H. H. Sprague, in 1896, it appeared to be advisable to change the phraseology of the term "dropped from the rolls," for, after all, the council was not authorized to actually turn out fellows; that could be accomplished only by vote of the society itself, following action by a board of trial. Therefore delinquent fellows were in future "deprived of the privileges of fellowship," equivalent to expulsion, so far as its effects went, but technically not the same. Such deprived fellows were at first restored to fellowship by vote of the council; in later years each deprived fellow has submitted a petition that he might be restored, the petition being referred to a committee of three fellows from his district — those who are most apt to know whether he still possesses the proper qualifications for fellowship, — the committee reports to the council at a subsequent meeting and the council acts on the recommendation of the committee. In this manner men who have strayed from the path of uprightness and straight dealing are kept out of the society. In recent years there have been several such cases in which the committees appointed by the council uncovered disagreeable facts and recommended accordingly that the petitioners be not restored. In the case of those who have resigned the censors pass on their eligibility before they can regain membership, thereby safeguarding the quality of the membership.

## CHAPTER IX

### LICENSING

THE State of Massachusetts began early to supervise the qualifications of those who were to be allowed to practise medicine within its confines, for in the charter of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the act of November 1, 1781, were provisions concerning not only the requirements for membership in the state society but, in addition, for those who were to be licensed by that society, whether or not they became later members of the society. The historical catalogue of 1893 informs us that from the year 1783, when the first license was issued, through the year 1846, the date of the last license of a physician who did not subsequently become a fellow, 692 men were licensed. Of these, 511 became active fellows after a novitiate period, 178 remained licentiates and 3 were elected honorary members. It would appear that the changes in the process of becoming fellows, inaugurated in 1846 and completed in the by-laws of 1850, did away with the advantages of licensure. In 1850 a practitioner might become a fellow, provided he was a graduate of Harvard University or the Berkshire Medical Institution, — at that time the only two sources of an M.D. degree in the state, — by signing the by-laws either with the recording secretary or with the secretary of one of the district medical societies, most of which had been recently established. One not a graduate of Harvard or of the Berkshire college must take an examination before the censors, who then, for the first time, were elected by the district societies; such candidate must have studied three full years under the direction of "some respectable physician." Any "Respectable Practitioner" who had been in practice not less than fifteen years might become a fellow, previous to the year 1852, by vote of a district society.

The act of 1781 has this to say about licensing:

"And whereas it is clearly of importance that a just discrimination should be made between such as are duly educated, and properly qualified, for the duties of their profession, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer medicine whereby the health and lives of many valuable individuals

may be endangered, or perhaps lost to the community. 7. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the president and fellows of said society, or such other of their officers or fellows as they shall appoint, shall have full power and authority to examine all candidates for the practice of physic and surgery (who shall offer themselves for examination) respecting their skill in their profession; and if, upon such examination, the said candidates shall be found skilled in their profession, and fitted for the practice of it, they shall receive the approbation of the society, in letters testimonial of such examination, under the seal of the said society, signed by the president, or such other person or persons as shall be appointed for that purpose."

The next section of the act provided for a fine of one hundred pounds if such examiners "obstinately refused to examine any candidate so offering himself for examination as aforesaid." Therefore it is plain that the framers of the act meant to have its purposes carried out.

The machinery for appointing censors and the rules for their conduct were arranged in 1782 and 1787, according to the first by-laws, as found in the Charter Book. Five censors were to be appointed at the annual meeting of the society in June, a meeting was to be held in Boston on the day after each stated meeting of the society — three in each year; when a candidate had passed an examination a certificate was to be given the recording secretary by the censors; all letters testimonial given to a candidate were to be signed by at least three of the censors, and the president was to subscribe his name and affix the seal of the society.

The first by-laws have this form of certificate for candidates for license:

"The following Certificate of Approbation (*mutatis mutandis*) shall be given to any approved Candidate at his request, he paying the Charges thereof, viz

Boston.....day of.....AD 17....

These certify, that We the Subscribers Censors of the Mass<sup>a</sup>. Med<sup>l</sup>. Soc<sup>y</sup>. have examined M..... A.B. of.....Commonwealth of M..... a Candidate for the Practice of Physic and Surgery, respecting his Skill & Knowledge therein & having found him duely qualified therefor do in testimony of our approbation, hereunto subscribe our Names this ..... day of ..... Anno Domini 17....

C. D. { Censors of the  
E. F. { Massachusetts Medical  
G. H. { Society

By virtue of the powers in me vested I have hereunto affixed the Seal of the Mass. Medical Society.

(L. S)

J. K. President M. M. S."



If the approved candidate chose to have his credentials in Latin the following form was printed in the by-laws of 1804:

"Omnibus ad quos hae literae perveniant, salutem. — Notum esto, quod nos  
Censores, AB., in C, comitatus D, in republica  
nostra, habitantem, de ratione et progressu ipsius studiorum in re  
exquisivimus: et, quod eum, ad omne munus facultatis paratum et  
instructum esse censemus: Nos, itaque merito, potestates omnes ac privilegia  
exercendi, et profitendi, pro auctoritate nobis (legibus reipublicae) concredita,  
damus ei, et concedimus. In cujus rei testimonium, nostrum nomina subsignavimus, apud B, die A.D. 18 .

{ A B.  
C D.  
E F.

In, quorum omnium et singulorum, fidem, ad presentes literas, sigillum societatis manumque meum apposui.

W X. Preses.

Attestat,  
Y Z. Protonotarius."

In view of the penalty attached to the office of censor, provided he did not function, it is interesting to note in the by-laws that after a censor had served five years he should not be obliged to serve again for twenty years.

Censors were required to examine candidates in physiology, pathology and therapeutics, no other subjects being mentioned in these first by-laws. Should any censor refuse or neglect to attend a meeting without sufficient excuse, in the opinion of the censors present, he was to pay the sum of twenty shillings to be divided among the censors who attended. Compare this with the modern custom of paying each censor from the treasury of the society a proportionate share of the total sum of the three-dollar fees, one fee for each candidate examined.

It must be remembered that in these early days the membership of the society was limited by its charter to seventy fellows; in the year 1789 there were just fifty-six living fellows.

The Harvard Medical School was started in 1782, the same year that the Massachusetts Medical Society began to function. It was only natural that there should develop a question as to which organization was to have charge of the licensing of practitioners in the state, for while it was obvious that a degree in medicine from a recognized medical college seemed to entitle its possessor to the privilege of practising, the right to issue licenses had been restricted, apparently, to the medical society.



We read the following in the minutes of the meeting of the society, June 7, 1786:

"The Com: appointed on 15 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1783 to consider whither the doings of any of the literary societies in this Commonwealth interfere with the Charter rights of this Society, & to confer with such societies upon the subject as they may think proper; reported, That they had attended the business of their appointment and upon examining the Medical Institutions of Harvard College, the Com: were of the opinion that those institutions did interfere with the charter right of this Society (Namely) 'to examine candidates for the practice of Physic & Syrgery & to grant letters testimonial of the examination of such as shall be found skilled in their profession in that, those institutions provided for the Medical Professors of that College examining their pupils & granting letters testimonial or public certificates to such of them as they judged proper, of their abilities to practice physic.' Whereupon the Com: applied to the Government of the College for a conference upon the subject, which was had, & ended in an agreement that the Com: should confer with the Medical Professors of the College & make such arrangements respecting this matter as should be mutually agreed upon for the honor of both Societies & the advancement of Medical knowledge. This conference between those Medical Professors & the Com: for some reasons, unknown to the Com: was never held. . ."

The committee report was signed by Cotton Tufts, at that time vice-president, William Kneeland, president and Nathaniel Walker Appleton, secretary. Although the report ended with a statement that in the opinion of the committee the "doings of the Harvard College Medical Institutions" did not interfere with the charter rights of the society there was friction until the year 1793.

One must keep in mind the fact that Harvard College conferred its first medical degrees, two in number, in 1788; that the total number of its medical graduates, bachelors in medicine, numbered exactly ten men in January, 1793, the time at which the last note respecting this controversy appeared in the records. Dr. Josiah Bartlett in his annual discourse before the society in 1810, not so many years after the events recorded, makes these observations:

"At the commencement of the medical institution (Harvard Medical School) a question arose, respecting its interference with the charter rights of the Medical Society. On one side it was supposed, that positive legal power to examine and license candidates for practice, implied an exclusive right; on the other, that the acknowledged privileges and usages of universities, were sufficient authority to qualify students, and confer professional degrees. Repeated conferences were held by committees of the society, with the corporation and professors of the college, which terminated satisfactorily. A diploma from the university, or letters testimonial from the society, are alike considered as entitling practitioners of three years' standing to fellowship; and all bachelors, or licentiates in medicine, may claim the use of the society's library."

This last privilege was conferred by the act of the General Court, reorganizing the society in 1803, and repealed by the act of March 19, 1831.

An act was passed by the legislature in 1789 for the purpose of defining the duties of the Massachusetts Medical Society in regard to

"medical instruction or education as they (the society) shall judge requisite for candidates for the practice of physic and surgery, previous to their examination before them, or their officers appointed for said purpose, respecting their skill in their profession,"

the society being directed to describe and point out such a course and cause the same to be published in three newspapers in three different counties of the Commonwealth; every candidate examined and approved was required to pay "such reasonable fees of office" as should be established by the society, and the treasurer was authorized to sue for and recover the same. This act repealed the fine of one hundred pounds attached to the refusal of the president or an examiner to examine any candidate who offered himself, substituting a fine for a similar offense of "not exceeding one hundred pounds nor less than twenty pounds."

Following the passage of this act we find in the council records these rules:

"Resolved, That in order to entitle any candidate to an examination before the Censors of this Society, it is requisite that in addition to an accurate knowledge of the English language he be able to construe & translate both Latin & Greek & have been instructed in the rudiments of Natural Philosophy, certificates of which to be produced to the satisfaction of the Censors — he will also bring a certificate that in addition to such education he hath studied three full years with some practitioner or practitioners of Physic & Surgery and attended on his or their practice; during which time he hath read the most approved authors in Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Surgery & Theory & Practice of Physic; provided, nevertheless, that any candidate who hath had the benefit of an education at some college or university, shall be entitled to an examination after having studied two full years with a practitioner or practitioners as aforesaid. The Society, impressed with a sense of the great importance of a college or university education do recommend it accordingly — also a knowledge of the French language & an attendance upon at least one course of actual anatomical dissections."

The foregoing committee report was committed to a new committee composed of Doctors Danforth, Rand, Jr., Warren, Waterhouse and Dexter at the annual adjourned meeting of the society, held on June 17, 1789. It will be noted that the last three were the





professors at the Harvard Medical School, the other two with Dr. Jarvis having been the members of the first committee. On April 14, 1790 the printed report of the committee of five was considered, amended in several places, largely in the language employed and adopted by the society.

We have seen that thus early the society had taken definite steps to improve the status of medical education in Massachusetts, a beginning that was to point the way to successive improvements in succeeding years and was to keep up the standard in this state so that the postponement by the General Court of medical practice legislation was attended by less harm than would have been the case in some other states of the Union, where no preliminary steps had been taken to assure the citizens of those states that the men who practised medicine had had a proper training for their work.

The report of the committee on medical education was ordered to be printed in three newspapers together with a list of books recommended to be read by candidates for license. (A blank space was left in the Council record book for this first list of required books but was never filled in. Thus far it has been impossible to find any copy of the list in existence.)

Between 1790 and the reorganization of the society in 1803 there were no changes in the regulations for licensure. When the year 1806 had been reached the by-laws had been modified to conform to the act of 1803, which granted a revised charter, so we may quote some of the provisions as to the procedure to govern the censors:

"Chapter IV. Section 1. *Censors' Meetings.* There shall be a meeting of the censors, annually, in the town of Boston, for the examination of candidates for the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, on the Thursday next preceding the day of the annual meeting of the fellows of the society, as provided in the act of incorporation; also, on the day following the meeting of the counsellors in October and February. Ten days, at least, previous to these several meetings, notice thereof shall be given to the public in two newspapers, printed in Boston, specifying the place, and time of day, at which they are to be holden. Three shall constitute a quorum, and the senior censor shall preside; and no fellow shall be exempted from serving in this office, except the president, the vice-president, and such others as have heretofore sustained those offices, unless by a vote of the counsellors: and every censor who shall neglect or refuse to attend these meetings for examination of candidates, without offering an excuse which shall be satisfactory to those who do attend, shall pay a fine of ten dollars for the use of the society."

"2. *Candidates and their Qualifications.* No person, educated within this Commonwealth, shall be admitted to an examination by the censors of the society,

or by those of any district society, unless he have the following qualifications:—  
 1st. He shall have such an acquaintance with the Greek and Latin languages, as is necessary for a medical or surgical education, and with the principles of geometry and experimental philosophy. 2d. He shall have studied three full years under the direction, and attended the practice, of some one or more of *the fellows or honorary members* of the society; during which time he shall have studied the most approved authors in anatomy, chemistry, materia-medica, surgery, midwifery, and the theory and practice of medicine; or, at least, all those which the counsellors shall from time to time specify, as constituting a proper course of medical, or surgical, education. No person, educated without this Commonwealth, shall be admitted to an examination, either by the censors of the society, or those of any district society, unless he have the qualifications specified in the first of the articles above mentioned; and, instead of those required in the second, shall have studied three full years under the direction, and attended the practice, of some reputable physician or physicians, surgeon or surgeons, as the case may be. The censors of the society, and those of the several districts, before examining any candidate, shall demand and receive from him a satisfactory certificate of his being qualified in one or the other of the modes above mentioned, and such certificate shall be delivered by the censors to the recording secretary, or to the secretary of the district society, as the case may be, whose duty it shall be to put it on file, and make a record thereof."

"3. *Censors' Duty.* The censors of the society, and those of the several districts, shall examine candidates, qualified, as is specified in the preceding section, in physiology, pathology, therapeutics, and surgery. They shall previously agree upon the mode of examination, and, having approved a candidate, shall certify the same to the recording secretary, or to the secretary of the district society, as the case may be, who, on receiving ten dollars, to be paid to the treasurer for the use of the society, shall record such certificate, and thereupon furnish the person approbated, with a certificate, or letter testimonial, printed and completed in the form following":

Then follows the form of the certificate in both English and Latin. See pages 303 and 304.

The above quotations have been given at length because they are in effect the system that has been observed by the society up to the present; they were taken from the By-Laws of 1806 as published in Salem by Joshua Cushing under that date. The pamphlet bears the autograph of James Jackson, who had much to do with the act of 1803. We know that the other fellow who was responsible for this act, John Dexter Treadwell, lived in Salem and this may account for the printing having been done in that town rather than Boston, for the By-Laws of 1804 were printed by Samuel Etheridge of Charlestown, the parts of the acts of the legislature that were printed being sketchy and defective, therefore

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

WE the subscribers, Censors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, duly appointed and authorized, have examined the letters testimonial of Frederick Augustus Parker, M.D. in the county of Essex; and having found them satisfactory,....Do hereby admit him to all the privileges of those, who have been examined and approbated by the Censors. Dated at Boston, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1816. A.D. 1816

David Townsend - M.D.  
Aaron Dexter M.D.

Wm Spooner - M.D.  
James Jackson M.D.  
Joseph Bartlett M.D.

By virtue of the power in me vested, I have hereunto affixed the Seal of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

James Fisher M.D. President.

Attest,

John Dixwell M.D. Recording Secretary.

CERTIFICATE OF LICENSE, 1816









prompting the assumption that Treadwell obtained a fuller and more accurate printing in his home town. The first list of licentiates was published with the catalogue of 1811. They were ninety-six in number. In the catalogue of 1813 there was a list of fifty who had not yet become fellows. The last list was published with the catalogue of 1822 — seventy-four names.

The next note of progress in the matter of medical education was a vote of the Council, June 3, 1813, to the following effect:

"On motion by Dr. Bartlett, Voted, That a committee be appointed to confer with the medical professors of Harvard University, on the best method of arranging a uniform plan of medical education; with a view to laying the same before the Society, when sufficiently matured for that purpose."

The committee were Doctors Jackson, Gorham and Coffin. They reported in February, 1814, and the censors were made a committee to confer with the government of Harvard for the purpose of ascertaining whether they were ready to agree to the plan of the committee. I have not been able to find the plan of the committee in the files, where the records state that it was placed. The censors, who were David Townsend, Thomas Welsh, Aaron Dexter, Josiah Bartlett, William Spooner, reported in April, 1814, and their report was committed to a committee consisting of the vice-president, Joshua Fisher, and Doctors Treadwell, Oliver, Spooner and Jackson. The last committee reported in May, the report being placed in the files with the previous report, and a vote was passed to the effect that the council asked for further time in order to present a satisfactory report to the society on account of the great importance of the subject. The minutes of the subsequent meetings of the council and society are silent as to any future action, leaving us to assume that the subject proved to be impossible of solution at that time. Sufficient evidence has been brought forward to indicate that the best minds were occupied with this important matter at a period thus early in the society's history.

The next item in the records of the council showing how the rules as to licensing were working in practice is a vote of the council, June 8, 1815, as follows:

"Voted, That it is recommended to the Censors, not to accept any diploma or certificate as sufficient evidence of a rightful claim to a license from this Society, unless it appears on a fair comparison, that the diploma or certificate is ample evidence that the candidate presenting the same has received an

education equivalent to that required from candidates for examination before the said Censors."

At this distance one is tempted to query the need of such a vote. Probably the censors wished to be backed up by the council. The next item, a report of the censors, adopted at the annual meeting of the society June 5, 1816, seems to be in the same category:

"In conformity with the direction of the Counsellors, the Censors of the Massachusetts Medical Society submit the following regulations for the consideration of the Society: If in any case, where a candidate, who has been educated in any foreign country or in any other of the United States, applies to the Censors of this Society, or to those of any of the District Societies for a license to practice physic or surgery in this Commonwealth, the said Censors shall perceive the smallest reason for doubt in respect to the education or qualifications of the said candidate, it shall be the duty of the said Censors, previous to granting a license, to examine as if he had not undergone any previous examination."

"Signed, By order. David Townsend, M.D. Chairman."

We may regard this "Standing By-Law," as it was called, when adopted by the Society, as leading up to the act of the legislature of 1859 requiring all candidates for fellowship in the society to be examined by the censors.

The legislature took a hand in the licensing question in the year 1818 by passing a law forbidding anyone who should practise "physick and surgery" in the Commonwealth without first being duly licensed, from taking "the benefit of law for the recovery of any debt or fees accruing for his professional services." The law further required the society to appoint censors in each county and every licensee was to deposit a certificate of licensure with the town clerk where he resided. The next year another act was passed revising the act of 1818 and making it obligatory to be licensed by the society, in order to collect fees or sue for a debt; dividing the state into five districts, each to be provided by the society with five censors, and conferring authority on these censors to license candidates, both those educated in the state and those from outside. The last act was approved by the Governor, February 19, 1819. The following March the council appointed a committee consisting of James Jackson, John C. Warren and John Dixwell to draw up rules for conducting examinations of candidates for the practice of medicine and surgery. The report was presented at the annual meeting in 1819, was amended and adopted. It is too long a report — when copied it makes about fifteen typewritten





pages — to be inserted here. As summarized it called attention to the recent act of the legislature by which the censors in the districts of the state would be on the same basis as the censors of the society, that the society ought to obtain uniformity in examinations, so far as possible, and to such an end it should prescribe the details to be followed in the examinations. As it was necessary to have one board for the examination of candidates at large the censors of the first medical district were made *ex officiis* "general censors." The report goes on to say:

" . . . this legislature have deemed it important to the community that the avenues to our profession be guarded in the most effectual manner, with a view to prevent the evils of ignorance and empiricism. It is incumbent on this society to realize the important trust reposed in them and to take every precaution for its faithful execution."

The rules recommended by the report and adopted by the society required the presence of at least three of the five censors before any action could be taken; the board should choose a secretary who should make records, receive fees and transmit them to the treasurer and send a transcript of his records to the recording secretary; candidates must make application in writing and no candidate should be examined except at a regular meeting; at an examination the order to be observed was: presentation of written testimonials, a knowledge of the Latin language, and the principles of geometry and experimental philosophy to be inquired into, i.e., as to the general education; if satisfied on these points the candidate should present a list of books he had read; he should next be examined in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia-medica, midwifery, surgery, pathology and therapeutics, and in addition in some one of the books required by the society to be read by medical students on each of the subjects above mentioned. After the candidate had retired from the meeting the chairman should ask each censor the following question:

"Does the candidate, who has now undergone examination, appear qualified to practice medicine or surgery or both (as the case may be) and to take charge of the lives and health of his fellowmen?"

If a major part of the censors present answered in the affirmative the candidate should receive a letter of approbation and license in the form prescribed in the by-laws. Should a candidate come from outside the state the censors were to institute inquiries as to the character of his education before approving him. Finally, the secre-

tary of the board should advertise the several meetings of the censors in two newspapers published within the district covered by that board, a month at least before the day of the meeting. A committee of the council was directed to appoint the times and places for the meetings of the censors. This they did, while the council itself appointed the censors in the districts that were named in the act of the legislature. It is hardly necessary to publish here such details as the names of these districts or the times and places of the meetings.

The first list of books required to be read by candidates for license, after the passage of the act of the legislature of 1819, is published with the by-laws in that year. It is reproduced here:

"The Edinburgh System of Anatomy; Bell's System of Anatomy, or Wistar's Anatomy; Haller's First Lines of Physiology; Richerand's Elements of Physiology; Bichat on Life and Death; Lavoisier's Elements of Chemistry; Murray's System of Chemistry, or Henry's Chemistry; Murray's Materia-Medica; Thacher's Dispensatory; Pharmacopoeia of the Massachusetts Medical Society; Benj. Bell's System of Surgery; Boyer's System of Surgery; Boyer on the Bones; Hunter's Treatise on the Blood, Inflammation and Gunshot Wounds; Burns' Anatomy of the Gravid Uterus; Denman's System of Midwifery; Denman's Aphorisma; Cullen's Nosology; Cullen's First Lines of the Practice of Physick; Thomas's Practice of Physick; Sydenham's Works: Underwood on the Diseases of Children; G. Fordyce's Dissertations on Fever; Heberden's Commentaries on Diseases; Hunter's Treatise on Lues Venerea."

A statement follows the above list that although it contains all that candidates are required to read yet the counsellors believe that many more books may be perused during the period of pupilage. Then there follow four pages of "Books Recommended." They are classified under the headings: Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia-Medica and Pharmacy, Surgery, Midwifery, Pathology and Therapeutics, — the last two making much the longest list, — and Miscellaneous and Periodical Works.

Practically the same lists appear with the issues of the by-laws for the years 1822 and 1826. After that date lists must have been published separately, for in the By-Laws of 1832 is to be found a by-law, numbered XVI, which required the counsellors, once in every three years at least, to specify such authors in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia-medica, midwifery and the theory and practice of medicine and surgery, as they shall think proper and necessary to be studied by medical pupils, previous to and to qualify them for an examination before the censors. This follows

the requirements of the act of the legislature of 1789, already referred to. The same by-law appears in the editions of the years 1837 and 1840, but had disappeared in the edition of 1850. The list of books adopted February 3, 1836 has been preserved in manuscript. To show what books were then considered to be the best the list has been printed at the end of this chapter. The committee presenting it as a report was J. Bigelow, J. Jeffries and G. W. Otis, names which make us sure it was carefully compiled.

At the annual meeting of the society in June, 1828 a committee consisting of Walter Channing, Z. B. Adams and Enoch Hale, Jr. was appointed to inquire into "the operation of certain provisions contained in the fourth section of an act passed (by the legislature) March 8, 1803" and to report at the next meeting. This had to do with the requirement that candidates for license (and fellowship) should have first passed three years at least in approved practice of medicine. In due course the committee recommended to the society in 1829 to make application to the legislature to repeal those provisions. It is recorded that the application met opposition in the legislature and a new petition was filed in 1830 with the result that an act was passed March 19, 1831 repealing so much of the act of 1803

"as requires that those who are authorized to claim admission into said society, shall have first passed at least three years in approved practice of medicine and surgery, and so much of the same section as entitles licentiates of the said society and bachelors of medicine at Harvard University to the use of the libraries of the society."

It was voted by the society, at the same meeting in 1830, that it was not expedient to make alterations in the laws of the society in relation to licentiates, a committee having reviewed the situation. Among other things it had been proposed to require four years' practice of medicine instead of three as a preliminary to licensing and to do away with the ten-dollar fee received from candidates for license.

In the year 1837, in addition to Harvard University, the Berkshire Medical Institution was recognized as qualified to grant medical degrees entitling the holders to a license for practice. The graduates of these two medical schools had to sign the by-laws and pay the fee whereupon they were furnished with certificates entitling them to practise. All others were examined by the censors. In that year a provision was added to By-Law LVI that



"if any licentiate of this society or doctor in medicine graduated either at Harvard University or at the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall neglect to obtain admission as a fellow of this society according to the method of the fifty-third by-law [i.e. by subscribing to the by-laws before the corresponding secretary or a councilor] for one year after he is entitled to the same, he shall be deemed an irregular practitioner";

The vote went on to say that such a delinquent should not afterwards be admitted a fellow unless he gave the council a sufficient explanation in writing. When the council had acted favorably on his case he might sign the by-laws within three months of the date of such action or he was forever without the pale.

The Worcester district society objected to the fee required of a licentiate who had been educated out of the state, and the society repealed this requirement on the score of expediency at its meeting in 1838 while it refused to alter the vote requiring graduates to become fellows within a year.

The by-law which required the council to publish a list of books to be read by candidates was repealed in 1843 on recommendation of a committee that had studied the question and at the same time the censors were relieved from the duty of examining candidates as to their reading of medical authors.

The decision to compel graduates of the medical schools to join the society within a year from graduation began the end of the licensing system, for licentiates naturally did not like to be distinguished from graduates of the schools and the need for a separate license became negligible. In 1846 the society adopted a report of a committee appointed to consider what changes in the requirements for licensure and admission to the society were advisable. This report pointed out that it was the duty of the censors to examine those who had been educated out of the state and that the corresponding secretary and the councilors could admit to membership only those who were already licentiates or graduates of the two medical schools; that the censors were not under the control of the society as regards the performance of their duties, which were to examine all candidates who had been educated out of the state and to issue to them certificates of license. When so licensed they might join the society or not, as they pleased. The object of examination by the censors was to pass authoritatively upon the medical acquirements of all strangers. The report was signed by Samuel Morrill, Enoch Hale and Winslow Lewis, Jr.

On February 2, 1848 a committee was appointed by the council



to take up proposed changes in the by-laws whereby the councilors and the censors were to be elected by the district societies instead of by the council. John Ware was chairman of this committee. A long report was submitted, printed and sent to all the fellows. Having been adopted by a majority of the society the council were instructed to apply to the legislature for authority to put into effect such changes, the act of February 18, 1850 subsequently giving that power, and the new by-laws founded on the act, going into effect August first of that year. Then followed the redistricting of the state and an increase in the number of the district societies so that the representations from the different counties might be as complete as possible. In this way new boards of censors were created, one for each district society, and the machinery of examining candidates was perfected.

The regulations of the censors in the year 1850 (By-Laws, Sections III and IV) provided that a candidate

"shall be a person of sound mind, and of good moral character; shall be not less than twenty-one years of age; shall have such an acquaintance with the Latin language as is necessary for a good medical education; and shall have acquired the principles of geometry and experimental philosophy. He shall have studied three full years under the direction, and shall have attended the practice, of some respectable physician or physicians; during which time he shall have attended two full courses on anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia medica, midwifery, and the theory and practice of medicine and surgery." "Candidates shall be examined in each and all the branches above mentioned, except that, if the candidate be a graduate as Bachelor or Master in Arts of any university, he need not be examined in the Latin language or in the principles of geometry and experimental philosophy."

The fee for a license was done away with at this time but a fee of five dollars was required for a diploma from the society although this was later abolished. (See chapter on Membership.)

From these requirements to the rules for admission to the society of the present day is only a step. Now, the novitiate of three years of practice has been superseded by graduation from a medical college that has been approved by the council, new lists of medical colleges of the United States and Canada being prepared by the standing committee on medical education and medical diplomas of the society every few years and submitted to the council for approval. The Latin language has gone and "a good English education" has taken its place; also candidates must not practise any "exclusive system of medicine" or practise contrary to the code of ethics of the society. The other requirements safeguarding

the character of its fellows are the same as in 1850. It is to be borne in mind that by the act of March 5, 1859 the legislature extended the censors' examinations to all candidates, whether graduates of Massachusetts medical colleges or not, so that subsequently there was only one way to enter the society and that was through examination by the censors.

As has been stated the last license issued for a practitioner in Massachusetts, for one who did not subsequently become a fellow, was in the year 1846. Up to 1850 all licensees became fellows in due course. After 1850 there was no occasion for the issuing of a separate license. Men who had passed the censors' examinations were admitted fellows at once without preliminary service as licentiates.

The stigma of being classed as "irregular practitioners" was not attractive to the physicians of the state. They were urged to join the state medical society in the following manner: By-law XII, of the revision of 1850, provided

"that any person engaged in the practice of medicine or surgery in this Commonwealth, who has not received such a medical education as is required by by-law III (see above), and any one who shall be guilty of practices forbidden to fellows, shall be deemed an irregular practitioner; and it shall be unlawful for any fellow to advise or consult with any such irregular practitioner, or in any way to abet or assist him as a practitioner of medicine or surgery."

Then follows a penalty prescribed for a breach of the law.

In a democratic country it will be always a difficult matter to separate the sheep from the goats, for are we not all equal, under the law? We realize now, more than we did formerly, the gradations of crookedness and unethical behaviour, and are less inclined to push into a pen labelled "bad" certain citizens, and into another called "good" the rest.

The licensing system of the Massachusetts Medical Society, begun in 1782, had come to an end in 1850. The Berkshire Medical Institution, started in 1823, had gone out of existence in 1867. In the course of time other medical schools came into being and finally, in 1894, Massachusetts joined the majority of the other states of the Union in adopting a medical practice act. This is not the place to consider the steps which led up to that act.





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## LIST OF BOOKS TO BE READ AND STUDIED BY CANDIDATES.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL FEBRUARY 3, 1836.

"In accordance with a law of the Commonwealth enacted February 16, 1789, and in obedience to a bye-law of the Society, the Counsellors of the said society give notice, that candidates for examination before the censors must hereafter give evidence of having read and studied the books whose titles are contained in the list which follows:

## BOOKS REQUIRED

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Charles Bell's System of Anatomy and Physiology.                                | Dewees' System of Midwifery.                             |
| Wistar's, Paxton's, or Cloquet's Anatomy.                                       | Velpeau's Elementary Treatise on Midwifery.              |
| Oliver's First Lines of Physiology.   | Good's Physiological System of Nosology.                 |
| Richerand's Elements of Physiology.   | Martinch Manual of Pathology.                            |
| Bichat on Life and Death.   | Gregory's Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Physic. |
| Bichat's General Anatomy, translated by Dr. Hayward.                            | Leannec on Diseases of the Chest, translated by Forbes.  |
| Beclard's Additions to Bichat, translated by Dr. Hayward.                       | Louis's Researches on Phthisis.*                         |
| Turner's Elements of Chemistry, or Brande's Manual of Chemistry by Dr. Webster. | Louis's Researches on Typhus.                            |
| Pharmacopoeia of the United States.   | Fordyce's Dissertations on Fever.                        |
| Bigelow's Materia Medica.   | Heberden's Commentaries on Diseases.                     |
| Syme's Principles of Surgery.   | Dewees on Diseases of Children.                          |
| Samuel Cooper's First Lines of Surgery, 2 vols.                                 | Lawrence or Mackenzie on Diseases of the Eye.            |
| Sir Astley Cooper's Lectures on Surgery, last edition.                          | Cazenave on Diseases of the Skin.                        |
| Hunter's Treatise on the Blood, Inflammation and Gun-shot wounds.               | Hunter's Treatise on Lues Venerea.                       |
| Thompson on Inflammation.   | Baillie's Morbid Anatomy.                                |
|   | Cook's Abridgement of Morgagni, 2 vols.                  |
|   | Beck's Medical Jurisprudence.                            |

\* The works of Louis will not be required until translations of them shall have been published in this country.

Although the books recommended in the foregoing list, are all that candidates are required to have read, yet the Counsellors believe that many more may be advantageously read during the period of pupilage. They have therefore prepared another list of books which they recommend for the perusal of students in medicine, as far as they may have opportunity.



## BOOKS RECOMMENDED

*Anatomy*

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Barclay's Anatomical Nomenclature.    | London Dissector.                         |
| Winslow's Anatomy.                    | Dublin Dissector.                         |
| Soemmering's Anatomy.                 | Shaw's Manual for the student of Anatomy. |
| Cheselden's Anatomy.                  | Wilson's Lectures on the Skeleton.        |
| Boyer's Anatomy.                      | Wilson's Lectures on the Vascular System. |
| Meckel's Anatomy.                     | Parsons on Anatomical Preparations.       |
| Cole's Surgical Anatomy.              | Spurzheim's Anatomy of the Brain.         |
| Horner's General and Special Anatomy. | The Edinburgh System of Anatomy.          |
| Horner's Descriptive Anatomy.         | Blumenbach's Comparative Anatomy.         |
| Albinus' Anatomical Plates.           | Cuvier's Comparative Anatomy.             |
| Lizar's Anatomical Plates.            | Boyer on the Bones.                       |
| Cloquet's Anatomical Plates.          |   |
| Charles Bell's System of Dissections. |   |

*Physiology*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Haller's First Lines on Physiology.                      | Beaumont on the Gastric Juice.  |
| Halleri Elementa Physiologiae.                           | Roget's Animal and Vegetable Physiology.  |
| Nouveaux Elements de la Science de l'Homme, par Barthez. | Hunter on the Animal Economy.   |
| Blumenbach's Physiology.                                 | Hewson on the Blood and Lymphatics.   |
| Dunglison's Physiology.                                  | Sheldon on the Absorbent System.  |
| Boerhaave's Institutes.                                  | Philip on the Laws of the Vital Functions.  |
| Mayo's Outlines of Human Physiology.                     | Ellis on the effects of Germination, Vegetation, and Respiration on the Air; two parts. |
| Broussais' System of Physiology.                         | Parry on the Pulse of the Arteries.   |
| Magendie's Physiology, translated by Revere.             |   |
| Bichat on the Membranes.                                 |   |
| Fordyce on Digestion.                                    |   |

*Chemistry*

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Davy's Elements of Chemical Philosophy. | Murray's System of Chemistry. |
| Thompson's System of Chemistry.         | Henry's Chemistry.            |
| Black's System of Chemistry.            | Lavoisier's Chemistry.        |
|   | Ure's Chemical Dictionary.    |

*Materia Medica and Pharmacy*

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Murray's Apparatus Medicaminum. | Paris' Pharmacologia.                               |
| Thesaurus' Medicaminum.         | Wood and Bache's Dispensatory of the United States. |
| Cullen's Materia Medica.        | Bigelow's Medical Botany.                           |
| Pearson's Materia Medica.       | Orfila on Poisons.                                  |
| Murray's Materia Medica.        |   |

Barton's Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States.

Hamilton on Digitalis.

Withering on Foxglove.

Crumpe on Opium.

Fowler on Tobacco.

Fowler on Arsenic.

Robertson on Cantharides.

Haden on Colchicum Autumnale.

### *Surgery*

Pearson's Principles of Surgery.

Boyer's System of Surgery.

Abernethy's Lectures.

Abernethy's other Surgical and Pathological Works.

Hey's Practical Observations on Surgery.

Desault's Surgical Works.

Bell (Benjamin) Surgical Works.

Bell (John) Principles of Surgery.

Bell (Charles) Operative Surgery.

Richter's Medical Cases in Surgery.

Larrey's Military Surgery.

Bourguery's Lesser Surgery, translated by Roberts.

Travers on Constitutional Irritation.

Jones on Hemorrhage.

Home on the Formation of Pus.

Gibson's Surgery.

Hennen's Military Surgery.

Dupuytren. Leçons de Cliniques Chirurgicales.

Pharmacopoeia Chirurgica.

James on Inflammation.

Brodie on the Joints.

Wilson on the Bones and Joints.

Cooper (Astley) on Dislocations and Fractures.

Cooper (Astley) on Diseases of the Breast.

Guthrie's Operative Surgery of the Eye.

Vetch on Ophthalmia.

Ware on Diseases of the Eye.

Scarpa on the Eye.

Wardrop on the Morbid Anatomy of the Eye.

Saunders on the Eye.

Travers on the Eye.

Adams on the Eye.

Curtis on the Ear.

Saunders on the Ear.

Saissy on the Ear.

Hunter on the Teeth.

Fox on the Teeth.

Bell (Thomas) on the Teeth.

Cooper and Travers' Surgical Essays.

Shaw on Distortions of the Spine.

Hodgson on Diseased Arteries.

Cooper (Astley) on Hernia.

Lawrence on Ruptures.

Travers on Wounds of the Intestines.

Crowther on White Swellings.

Ford on the Hip-joint.

Cooper on the Hip-joint.

Home on Strictures of the Urethra.

Bell (C) on Diseases of the Urethra.

Bingham on Diseases of the Bladder.

Wilson on the Urinary and Genital Systems.

Howship on Diseases of the Urinary Organs.

Prout on Diseases of the Urinary Organs.

Brodie on Diseases of the Urinary Organs.

Heurteloup on Lithotrity.

King on Lithotrity and Lithotomy.

Civiale de la Lithotritie.

Howship on Diseases of the Lower Intestines.

Copeland on Strictures of the Rectum.

Calvert on the Rectum.

Boyer. Traite des Maladies Chirurgicales.

### *Midwifery*

Smellie's Midwifery.

Denman's System of Midwifery.

Denman's Aphorisms.

Burns' Principles of Midwifery.

Burns' Anatomy of the Gravid Uterus

Burns on Uterine Hemorrhage.

*Midwifery — continued*

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|--|--|
| Burns on Abortion.                       | White on Lying-in Women.                           |
| Blundel's Midwifery.                     | Gordon on Puerperal Fever.                         |
| Ramsbotham's Observations on Midwifery.  | Hey on Puerperal Fever.                            |
| Conquest's Outlines of Midwifery.        | Butler on Puerperal Fever.                         |
| Davies' Elements of Operative Midwifery. | Armstrong on Puerperal Fever.                      |
| Merriman on Difficult Parturition.       | Campbell on Puerperal Fever.                       |
| Rigby on Uterine Hemorrhage.             | Gooch on Diseases of Females.                      |
| Douglas on the Evolution of the Foetus.  | Clarke on Diseases of Females.                     |
|  | Dewees on Diseases of Females.                     |
|  | Remarks on the Employment of Females in Midwifery. |

*Pathology and Therapeutics*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Celsi Opera.   | Kirkland's Medical Surgery.                             |
| Van Swieten's Commentaries on Boerhaave.             | Zimmerman on Experience in Physic.                      |
| Conspectus Medicince Theoreticæ; auctore J. Gregory. | Huxham on Fevers and Sore Throat.                       |
| Cullen's Nosology.                                   | R. Jackson on the Fevers of Jamaica.                    |
| Cullen's First Lines of the Practice of Physic.      | R. Jackson. Outlines of the History and Cure of Fevers. |
| Good's Study of Medicine.                            | R. Jackson on Contagious Fever.                         |
| Parry's Elements of Therapeutics.                    | R. Jackson on Cold Water.                               |
| Chapman's Therapeutics.                              | Currie on Cold Water.                                   |
| Hall on Diagnosis (last edition).                    | Senac on Intermittent Fever.                            |
| Hall on Loss of Blood.                               | Beddoes on the Combination of Fever and Inflammation.   |
| Morgagni on the Seats and Causes of Diseases.        | Chisholm on Pestilential Fevers.                        |
| Baillie's Morbid Anatomy — with the Plates.          | Bancroft on Yellow Fever.                               |
| Horner's Pathological Anatomy.                       | Chervin sur la Fievre Jaune.                            |
| Andral's Pathological Anatomy.                       | Fellowes on the Fever of Andalusia & c.                 |
| Andral. Clinique Medicale.                           | Strong on Petechial Fever.                              |
| Carswell on the Elementary Forms of Disease.         | Hale on Spotted Fever.                                  |
| Whytt's Works.                                       | Booth's Life and Opinions of Armstrong.                 |
| Fothergill's Works.                                  | Smith and Tweedie on Fever.                             |
| Rush's Works.  | Armstrong's Illustrations of Typhus.                    |
| Broussais' Works (translated by Hays & c.)           | Armstrong on Scarlet Fever, Measles and Consumption.    |
| Bright's Reports of Medical Cases.                   | Sydenham's Works.                                       |
| Dunglison's Hygiene.                                 | Gallup on the Epidemics of Vermont.                     |
| Underwood on Diseases of Children.                   | Clark on Fevers and Scarlatina.                         |
| Cheyne's Essays on Diseases of Children.             | Hawkins on Rheumatism.                                  |
| Percival's Medical Works.                            | Bell (G. H.) on Cholera Asphyxia.                       |
|  | Kennedy on Contagious Cholera.                          |
|  | Jackson (James junior) on the Cholera in Paris.         |



- Report on Spasmodic Cholera, By a Committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society.
- Chomel. Leçons de Clinique, Fievre Typhoide.
- Petit et Serres. Fievre entero — mesenterique.
- Louis' Memoires sur Plusieurs Maladies.
- Clark on the Influence of Climate.
- Lind on Hot Climates.
- Morely on Tropical Diseases.
- Johnson on Diseases of Hot Climates.
- Macculloch on Malaria.
- Chalmers on Diseases of South Carolina.
- Cleghorn on Diseases of Minorca.
- Hillary on Diseases of Barbadoes.
- Hunter on Diseases of the Army in Jamaica.
- Pringle on Diseases of the Army.
- R. Jackson on the Medical Department of Armies.
- Lind on Diseases of Seamen.
- Lind on the Scurvy.
- Blane on the Diseases of Seamen.
- Trotter's Medicina Nautica.
- Blackall on Dropsies.
- Ayre on Dropsy.
- Abercrombie on Diseases of the Head.
- Portal sur L'Apoplexie.
- Cheyne on Apoplexy, Lethargy & c.
- Cook on Nervous Diseases.
- Swan on Nervous Diseases.
- Hall on Mimoses.
- Teale on Neuralgia.
- Arnold on Insanity.
- Crichton on Mental Derangement.
- Pinel on Insanity.
- Knight on Insanity.
- Cox on Insanity.
- Rush on Mental Diseases.
- Corvisart on Diseases of the Heart.
- Burns on Diseases of the Heart.
- Reeder on Diseases of the Heart.
- Hope on Diseases of the Heart.
- Davies on the Lungs and Heart.
- Parry on Syncope Anginosa.
- Gerhard on Diseases of the Chest.
- Williams on Diseases of the Lungs and Pleura.
- Colin's Manual for the Stethoscope, translated by Ryland.
- Maclean on Hydrothorax.
- Baron on Tuberculous Diseases.
- Bree on Disordered Respiration.
- Young on Consumption.
- Clark on Consumption and Scrofula.
- Stark's (William) Works.
- Bradham on Bronchitis.
- Watt on Chincough.
- Peirson on Chincough.
- Paris on Diet.
- Philip on Indigestion.
- Pemberton on Diseases of the Abdominal Viscera.
- Abercrombie on Diseases of the Stomach and Intestines.
- Ayre on Marasmus.
- Johnson on the Liver.
- Saunders on the Liver.
- Harty on Dysentery.
- Hamilton on Purgative Medicines.
- Brera on Worms, translated by Coffin.
- Rollo on Diabetes.
- Marcet on Calculous Disorders.
- Adams on Morbid Poisons.
- Bateman on Cutaneous Diseases, with plates.
- Rayer. Traite des Maladies de la Peau.
- Fisher on Smallpox, Varioloid & c.
- Willan on Cow pock.
- Cross on Cow pock.
- Thompson on Varioloid.
- Withering on Scarlatina.
- Scudamore on Gout, Rheumatism and Gravel.
- Ring on Gout.
- Sutton on Delirium tremens, Peritonitis and Gout.
- Fowler on Rheumatism.
- Haygarth on Rheumatism.
- Home's Medical Facts.
- Home's Clinical Experiments.
- Ferriar's Medical Histories and Reflections.
- Bardsley's Medical Reports.

## MISCELLANEOUS AND PERIODICAL WORKS

- Friend's History of Medicine.  
 Sprengel's History of Medicine.  
 Hunter's Introductory Lectures.  
 Cabanis on the Revolutions of Medical Science.  
 Hawkin's Medical Statistics.  
 Hutchinson's Biographia Medica.  
 Young's Medical Literature.  
 Gregory on the Duties and Qualifications of a Physician.  
 Rush's Introductory Lectures.  
 Copland's Medical Dictionary.  
 Hay's Cyclopaedia of Medicine.  
 Percival's Medical Ethics.  
 Paris and Fonblanques Medical Jurisprudence.  
 J. G. Smith's Forensic Medicine.  
 J. G. Smith on Medical Evidence.  
 Edinburgh Medical Essays.  
 Medical Observations and Inquiries.  
 Medical Transactions of the College of Physicians, London.  
 Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.  
 Memoirs of the Medical Society of London.  
 Memoirs of the Massachusetts Medical Society.  
 Duncan's Medical Commentaries.  
 Transactions of a Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge.  
 Medico-Chirurgical Transactions.  
 Transactions of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland.  
 Dublin Hospital Reports.  
 London Medical and Physical Journal.  
 London Medical Gazette.  
 Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal.  
 American Journal of the Medical Sciences.  
 North American Medical and Surgical Journal.  
 New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery.  
 Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.  
 Medico-Chirurgical Review.



## CHAPTER X

### THE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETIES

IN the charter act of the Legislature, November 1, 1781, there was no provision for the forming of local or district medical societies, integral parts of the parent society, in the different sections of the state. These district or county societies have since become prominent features of all state medical societies, and in most states they are called county societies, their boundaries conforming to the counties of the state. The Massachusetts Medical Society began its existence with a membership limit of seventy fellows, a council of seven, who, as well as the officers, were elected by the society, eleven fellows being necessary for a quorum. The society held three stated meetings each year and three "particular" meetings when papers were read or examined for printing in the "Medical Communications." The particular meetings were omitted after the first few years. That there was a need of subsidiary societies is evident from the following vote, passed at an adjourned meeting of the society in "Mr. Furnass's room in Court Street on Wednesday 26th Oct'. 1785" only three years after the society had obtained a good start:

*"Voted, (Upon a recommendation of Council) That Committees be appointed in the several counties of this Commonwealth for the purpose of encouraging the communications of all extraordinary or important cases that may occur in the practice of the Medical Art, and for this purpose to meet, correspond & communicate with any individuals, or any Associations of Physicians, that have been, or may be formed in their respective counties, and make report of their doings from time to time to this Society as occasion shall require."*

In accordance with this vote committees were appointed for the following counties: Suffolk, Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Hampshire, Berkshire, Bristol and Plymouth, Barnstable, Duke's and Nantucket, and Lincoln and Cumberland, for Maine was a part of Massachusetts until 1820. The committees were called "Corresponding Committees." At the annual meeting, June 7, 1786, the chairman for the "Corresponding Committee" for Suffolk reported that the major part of the committee had attended a meeting of the



"Association of Physicians in the County of Suffolk, in May last, and took that opp<sup>n</sup>. to declare the design of their appointment, and through them to the other physicians in the County, also to invite them to make communications to the Society from time to time of such medical improvements and new discoveries as they might severally make in the course of their business" . . .

At the same meeting Dr. Nathaniel Saltonstall, one of the "Corresponding Committee for Essex," reported that there were no associations in that county, and Dr. Isaac Rand, chairman of the Middlesex committee, made a similar report for his county. We are without further information on the project to form local societies until 1789 when we find these entries in the society records under date of April 8: "The Corresponding Committee of Middlesex reported & laid on the table a copy of the Middlesex Medical Association." "The Corresponding Committee of Suffolk reported & read a copy of the Suffolk Medical Association."

The report of the committee from Middlesex has been preserved. It was laid on the table and placed in the files, where it is today. The report for Suffolk was read, but not laid on the table. Even at that early date there was a prejudice against Suffolk, for were not a large number of the fellows resident in that county near at hand to the headquarters of the society and therefore so placed that they might enjoy all the privileges, attend meetings and have a voice in its counsels. A local society in that county might overshadow the parent society. The vote of the council on October 26, 1786 is in this connection:

"That it be recommended to the Soc<sup>y</sup>. at their next meet<sup>g</sup>. that in consideration of the present large prop<sup>n</sup>. of Fellows belonging to the Soc<sup>y</sup>. from the County of Suffolk, they determine upon a proportion of Fellows that shall hereafter be chosen from the different counties of the State."

If any action was taken on this suggestion no record of it appears in the minutes. One cannot help noticing in the records throughout the life of the society a tendency to keep Suffolk in the background so that the state organization might represent the entire state and so that the susceptibilities of those at a distance from the headquarters, which were situated near the center of population and the capital of the state, might not be affected.

Here is the report of the Correspondence Committee for Middlesex, signed by Isaac Rand and Oliver Prescott, addressed to Dr. N. Appleton, Recording Secretary, and dated April 3, 1789:

"The Committee appointed for the County of Middlesex report the enclosed printed regulations of an association of physicians, as the best means they

could devise for promoting the views of the Medical Society in the County they belong to."

The printed document is two and a half quarto pages in length. It is headed: "Middlesex Medical Association," has ten preambles and a set of by-laws consisting of twenty articles. It has been impossible to trace this first Middlesex Medical Association. In the Contributions of the Old Residents Historical Association of Lowell, Mass., Volume II, Dr. D. N. Patterson says that the first medical association was formed in 1829, existed until 1833, when it was disbanded. Another society began in 1839 and was merged into the Middlesex North District Society in 1844.

Erastus Sergeant and Oliver Partridge were the corresponding committee for Berkshire. They got together a meeting of fifteen physicians at Stockbridge and organized the Berkshire Medical Society January 16, 1787. This society had meetings in June, 1787 and in January, 1788; then not until 1794 and 1795. Two meetings were held in 1796, and the next activity was noted in the petition for a society transmitted to the parent society in 1807. To this we shall have reference shortly.

The letter of Oliver Fiske to the corresponding secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society, dated at Worcester, August 2, 1796, is the next evidence we have of the forming of a local society. At this time a certain decadence in the parent society was to be chronicled. Only one meeting had been held in that year and there is no record of a council meeting. It was becoming evident that there was need of spreading the membership over a larger number of the physicians of the state and that machinery for forming district societies and welding them to the main association would add to the usefulness and impart vigor to the society. This is the letter:

"Sir — As the Corresponding Secy. of the Massachusetts Medical Society I beg leave to inform you that a Medical Institution has been formed in the County of Worcester under the auspices of some of the principal Physicians. At our annual meeting in June last it was made my duty to give this information and to assure the Mass. Med. Society of our friendship & respect. It was the opinion of the Gentlemen who founded our society that the purposes of your establishment are not so generally answered particularly in the country as was contemplated by its founders. The numbers by law are so circumscribed that the members are too thinly scattered to have much influence in discouraging ignorance and imposture. As our motives are laudible — being as we think the same which originated the Mass. Med. Society — we are confident that we shall meet the approbation of the friends of medicine. We



are however, particularly solicitous to receive countenance & support from the Mass. Med. Society — whose members as men are so respectable & as Physicians so eminent.

Should we judge it expedient to apply for an act of Incorporation, which is at present contemplated, we confidently hope that the Mass. Med. Society will not be unfriendly to the measure.

I am Sir with respect your  
humb<sup>e</sup>. Servt.

Oliver Fiske."

Fiske, at that time thirty-two years old, was secretary of the county medical society, which had been organized two years before, and he continued as secretary or librarian until 1804 when the society became the "Worcester District Medical Society." He was elected the first corresponding secretary of the new society and was a councilor of the parent society as well as orator in 1811. This Federalist with an enviable war record was an accomplished public speaker and an organizer of his county medical society.

The act of the Legislature of 1803 removed any definite limit to the number of fellows who might become members of the society; the frequent meetings of the society were changed to an annual meeting and adjourned meetings as occasion might require; the council was to meet at least three times a year, and machinery was provided for the formation of district societies, as defined in Section 5 as follows:

*"And be it further enacted, That the said Counsellors upon the application of any five members of the said Society, may establish within such districts and portions of this Commonwealth, as they shall think expedient, subordinate societies, and meetings, to consist of Fellows of the said Corporation residing within such districts respectively, wherein the communication of cases and experiments may be made, and the diffusion of knowledge in medicine and surgery may be encouraged and promoted; and the Counsellors aforesaid, upon application from such subordinate societies may appoint five examiners or censors, within such districts, who shall be authorized and empowered to examine such candidates for the practice of physic and surgery, as shall present themselves for such examination." . . . "And the members of such subordinate societies shall be holden, to report to the Counsellors of the general Society, all such cases as may be selected for their importance and utility, and the said subordinate societies shall be subject to the regulations of the general Society, in all matters wherein the general Society, shall be concerned; and the said subordinate societies may appoint their own officers, and establish regulations for their particular government, not repugnant to the bye laws of the general Society; and shall be capable to purchase and receive by donation, Books, Philosophical, and Chirurgical Instruments, or other personal property, and may hold and dispose of the same exclusively, of any authority of the general Society."*



The By-Laws of the year 1804 define the mode of establishment of District Societies as follows: Chapter IV, Sec. 1.

"Applications for District Societies shall be made in writing, stating the extent of territory they are designed to include, the number of Fellows of the Society within such limits as are desirous of becoming members, and the place where the meetings are proposed to be held. Sec. 2. Every District Society shall transmit annually to the Corresponding Secretary of the Society, a list of their officers, and the originals, or copies of the communications on their files."

The above quotations from the act of 1803 and the by-laws of the following year have been given as printed by Samuel Etheridge, of Charlestown, in 1804. They make plain how carefully the organic principles were drawn in the beginning, thus ensuring successful operation through all the succeeding time.

The first application for a district society under the act of 1803 was presented to the Council by Aaron Dexter, October 19, 1803. It is as follows:

"To the President & Members of the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

In conformity to the Section of the late Act, (i.e. March 8, 1803) in addition to the act incorporating certain physicians by the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society, we the Subscribers, being Fellows of the said Society, hereby make application to the President and Members of the Council of said Society requesting that the said President and Members of the Council should constitute a subordinate or district society, to consist of the Fellows residing in the town of Boston; at the same time submitting to the Council the expediency of including in the same Society the Fellows residing in the neighboring towns of Charlestown, Cambridge and Roxbury.

(Signed)

William Ingalls  
James Jackson  
John G. Coffin  
Ben. Shurtleff  
John C. Howard  
J. C. Warren"

With regard to this petition signed by six members, — one more than the required number, — the original being in the Bowditch Book, the Council records have this to say under date of October 19, 1803:

"Dr. A. Dexter presented a petition from several members of the Society for a District Society. *Voted*, That the same be read. It was accordingly read & committed to three of the Council. viz. Jos<sup>h</sup>. Bartlett, Dexter & Warren to report at the next meeting of the Council."

At the next meeting, February 2, 1804, it was

*Voted*, "That the petition for a District Society in the Town of Boston to include Roxbury, Charlestown & Cambridge, be granted, but the chairman of said petitioners be requested to state by next meeting of Council the numbers said Society [wish composed]."

There is no further record on this subject to be found in the minutes of the council or society, or in the Statute Book. We know that the "Boston Medical Society" was organized May 14, 1780; its chief members were John Warren, Thomas Kast, Isaac Rand, Jr., and Samuel Danforth; it met at the Green Dragon Tavern, on Union Street. Reference has been made to it in Chapter II. We do not know how long it existed. Its successor the "Boston District Medical Society," 1809-1813, met in the rooms of the Massachusetts Medical Society at 49 Marlborough Street, now a part of Washington Street. Of its officers in 1809 Josiah Bartlett, the president, had been recording secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1792 to 1796; Thomas Welsh, the vice-president, had been treasurer of the state society from 1783 to 1798; William Gamage, the secretary, was to be librarian of the parent society in 1818-1819, succeeding John Gorham, the treasurer, who was to serve the state society as librarian from 1814 to 1818. A close alliance between the two societies is apparent.

As I write, the old book of minutes of the "Boston District Medical Society" is before me and also a printed broadside containing the by-laws of that society, the officers who were chosen in October, 1810 and a list of the fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society residing in that district. From the broadside we learn that the society was "instituted A.D. 1809," that it purported to be a district society of the Massachusetts Medical Society, its meetings were held in the "Hall of the Massachusetts Medical Society," its officers were, or had been, officers of the latter organization. The officers in the printed document are: President, Josiah Bartlett; Vice-President, Thomas Welsh; Treasurer, John Gorham; Secretary, William Gamage, Jr.; Librarian and Cabinet Keeper, John Fleet. On the back of the document is written: "Voted that the secretary distribute these regulations to the members of the society as soon as convenient." The minutes in the book terminate abruptly with the following entry: "At the meeting holden Jan<sup>y</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup>. 1813 Abr<sup>m</sup>. R. Thomson not having a dissertation prepared communicated two cases of disease with remarks. Meeting dissolved. W<sup>m</sup>. Gamage, Jr., Sec'y."

In the minutes of the council of the parent society for October 5, 1809 is this entry:

"Application being made for the establishment of a district society to comprehend the towns of Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Charlestown, Dorchester, Malden, Medford, Roxbury. Voted, that the said appl<sup>n</sup>. be agreed to."

Therefore this second Suffolk society is to be regarded as the forerunner of the Suffolk District Medical Society, which was regularly established in 1849, rather than as a successor of the Boston Medical Society, organized in 1780, even though the district society of 1809 made no reports to the parent society and is not mentioned again in the records of the Massachusetts Medical Society or of its council. We can surmise that the objections to establishing what must necessarily be the largest district medical society at the headquarters of the parent society, prevented formal recognition.

In the spring of 1804 the state society had barely obtained a fair start under its new charter; Isaac Rand was president, forty councilors had been elected by the society and fourteen were present at a meeting on February 2. At the succeeding meeting, held June 7, 1804, Isaac Rand resigned as president and John Warren was elected; applications for district societies were received from the counties of Essex and Worcester, and were granted. These two district societies were actually started and it will be of interest to see their applications and early reports to the parent society, thus showing their activities in the very beginning. It is proper to say that they have continued an unbroken existence until the present, having had much to do in advancing the aims of the Massachusetts Medical Society while maintaining a constant loyalty.

We will begin with the Worcester District Medical Society, which was organized in 1794, as we have seen. Here is the application under date of May 30, 1804:

"To the Councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society.  
Gentlemen.

The subscribers, being five of the members of said Society, request that a District Society may be established in the County of Worcester including all the members of said Society who are resident in the County aforesaid, and those who may be hereafter elected, and that the meetings may be holden in the Town of Worcester.

May 30<sup>th</sup> 1804.

(Signed)

Seth Field  
F. Foxcroft  
Tilly Rice  
John Green  
Oliver Fiske"





Here is the first report of this society to the corresponding secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society:

"Worcester, Feby. 5th 1805.

Sir

At a meeting of the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society (resident in the County of Worcester) in Worcester on Wednesday the 25th of September last

Voted that the Fellows specified organize themselves into a District Society for the S<sup>d</sup>. County agreeably to Law — at which meeting the following Officers were chosen —

(viz)

Israel Atherton A.M.	President
Jonathan Osgood A.M.	Vice-President
Dr. John Green	Secretary
Oliver Fiske A.M.	Corresponding Secretary
Dr. John Green	Treasurer
Attest John Green Secretary"	

On the outside of the document is written: "Hon'd by Dr. Oliver Fiske." We may understand by this that the report was presented to the Council on February 7 by Oliver Fiske, who had been elected one of the forty-four councilors at the annual meeting in 1804 — one of three from Worcester — although there is no entry in the minutes that he reported. In the succeeding years there are frequent entries of reports from Worcester and Essex, though absolute completeness in the matter of writing records was not found in those days.

Here is the application of the Essex County members for a district society:

"To the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

The memorial of the Subscribers, fellows of the S<sup>d</sup>. Massachusetts Medical Society, residing in the County of Essex, respectfully represents, to the Council of the S<sup>d</sup>. Massachusetts Medical Society, that they are desirous, that a District Society may be established within the S<sup>d</sup>. County of Essex, to comprehend the fellows of the Society now residing, and who may hereafter reside in the following Towns of S<sup>d</sup>. County viz Lynn & Lynnfield, Danvers, Salem, Marblehead, Beverly, Wenham, Manchester, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Topsfield & Middleton, & they further represent, that they would propose the Town of Salem as the place in which the meetings of the District Society may be held.

(Signed)

E. A. Holyoke  
Joseph Osgood  
B. Lynde Oliver  
John D. Treadwell  
Thomas Pickman"

The first report of this district society is found in the Council Records of October 1, 1806, as follows:

"A communication was received & read from Dr. John D. Treadwell, Secretary of the Essex Southern District Medical Society containing the transactions of the said District Society & informing that they had elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

Edward Augustus Holyoke, M.D.	President
Joshua Fisher, M.D.	V. President
James Gardner, M.B.	Treasurer
Benjamin L. Oliver, A.M.	Lib. & Cab. Keeper
John D. Treadwell, A.M.	Secretary

The above letter contained a communication made to the said District Society on the subject of worms in the human body, by Joshua Fisher, V. Pres. of y<sup>e</sup>. Soc. Ordered, That the letter and communication be put on file."

Dr. Fisher's paper was published in the second series, Part II, No. 1 of the Medical Communications and may be regarded as the first paper read before a district society to be printed in the society's printed communications. It appears that the Worcester society went through the processes of organization a little more promptly than that in Essex. John Dexter Treadwell, the first secretary of the Essex society, a pupil of Edward Augustus Holyoke, who started the parent society, had been responsible for the reorganization act of 1803. He had been instrumental in having a committee of the council appointed in January of that year to consider what changes should be made in the charter to democratize the society. Later he and Judge Sewall had drawn the act, as has been described in Chapter III.

According to the council records of October 4, 1804 "The petition for a district society in Lincoln and Cumberland was granted." The petition has been preserved. It is dated Portland, January 27, 1804 and is signed by Nathaniel Coffin, Shirley Erving, Aaron Kinsman, Ammi R. Mitchell and David Jones. The files contain another request for a society by the name of "The District Maine Medical Society," dated Portland, June 30, 1804, signed by Nathaniel Coffin, Shirley Erving, Jeremiah Barker, Dudley Folsom, Stephen Thomas and Aaron Kinsman. Nothing came of these attempts to form a society. A similar petition for a district society in Norfolk with headquarters at Dedham, dated June 1, 1806 and signed by James Mann, Abijah Richardson, Nathaniel Miller, Nat Ames and Amos Holbrook, was received by the council and referred

to the next meeting. There is no further record concerning such a society.

Thus of all the applications only Worcester and Essex counties actually formed district societies. The next to appear is the county farthest from the Atlantic seaboard, Berkshire, at that time two days' journey from the capital. Here is the record in the minutes:

"At a meeting of the Counsellors holden at Vila's Hotel, Boston, on Wednesday, the 7 day of October, 1807, a petition was received from certain members of the Society in the county of Berkshire, asking leave to establish a district society in that county, to comprehend all the towns in said county. *Voted*, That the prayer of the said petitioners be granted."

At that time there were eight fellows of the society in Berkshire. The petition has been lost. According to the record book of the "Medical Association of the County of Berkshire," in which entries were made as early as 1787, there were no minutes of any meetings held in the year 1807, or in the years immediately succeeding, therefore we must regard this as another evidence of good intentions. Search through the records of the council of the parent society from 1807 to 1819 shows that new fellows residing in Berkshire were admitted from time to time, but there is no specific reference to a district society until February 4, 1818, when this entry occurs:

"A petition having been presented by Hugo Burghardt and others, Fellows of this Society, residing in the County of Berkshire, requesting permission to constitute a district society by the name of the Berkshire District Medical Society, and to hold their meetings in the town of Lenox, *Voted*, That the prayer of the said petition be granted."

At first the new society voted not to accept the charter as granted by the parent society; regular meetings were begun July 1, 1819 and have continued to the present time. The charter was accepted by the Berkshire society on May 4, 1820, the society being well established in the year 1821.

In the files of the Massachusetts Medical Society is preserved a letter, dated Stockbridge, January 15, 1821, announcing that the Berkshire society had accepted the charter the previous year and that the officers were: President, Timothy Childs; Vice-President, Hugo Burghardt; Secretary, Alfred Perry; Treasurer, and Librarian, Charles Worthington. Timothy Childs, father of Henry Halsey Childs, was the leading physician of Pittsfield, having a large consulting practice in the country around. He had been surgeon to



Colonel Patterson's regiment during the Revolution, had been a leader in introducing the practice of inoculation in Pittsfield, was a representative in the General Court in 1792 and later had been a member of the Executive Council, a man of affairs, worthy to head a new society.

The next happening in point of time is the second application, already referred to, for a district society in the towns of Boston, Charlestown, Malden, Medford, Brookline, Cambridge, Roxbury, Dorchester. It is dated at Boston, October 4, 1809 and signed by John Warren, Thomas Welsh, Josiah Bartlett, William Ingalls and Benjamin Shurtleff, the first three being denominated "Committee." In the council record of the next day, namely, October 5, 1809, is this entry:

"Application being made for the establishment of a district society to comprehend the towns of Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Charlestown, Dorchester, Malden, Medford, Roxbury, *Voted*, That the said appl<sup>n</sup>. be agreed to."

As two of the signers were president and recording secretary, (Warren and Welsh respectively), also councilors, it is probable that the silence of the minutes as to this proposed district society in the future was intended.

The year 1831 was an eventful one in the history of the district medical societies, for the district that was most remote from the capital, Berkshire, petitioned the General Court in the following terms:

"The subscribers, citizens and physicians of the County of Berkshire, beg leave to state their grievances and respectfully present their petition, viz. That they may be separated from the Massachusetts Medical Society, and be formed into a District Society, for the following reasons: 1st. Our great distance from the meeting of the parent Society, by which we lose most of the advantages of a medical association, library, meeting, funds, &c. as also a participation in their public entertainments. 2d. That portion of the Medical Society denominated the Berkshire District, has evidently been in a state of declension for several years, and will, probably, soon be extinct; the reasons for which are, that by far the greater proportion of the physicians in the district are disinclined to become members on account of the few privileges the members receive, and the unreasonable expenses connected with it. 3d. In our present situation we cannot comply with the by-laws of the Society. 4th. The present regulations of the Board of Censors we think oppressive. 5th. We are nigh unto medical societies in adjacent states, whose privileges are far greater, and attended with much less expense. 6th. If our petition be granted, this district would contain at least sixty active members, and believing, as we do, that among medical men a frequent interchange of sentiment, united efforts, publicity of facts and cases, &c. are necessary for the advance-

ment of medical science, and for the general good of the human family, and can in no way be more effectually encouraged than by medical associations, we, your petitioners, do hope and believe that the prayer of our petition may be granted, and as in duty bound will ever pray."

(Signed)

"H. H. Childs and forty others."

Pittsfield, Dec. 7th, 1830.

When the petition came before the House of Representatives on February 12, 1831, it was ordered that the petitioners cause an attested copy of this petition to be served on the recording secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and all persons interested were to appear to show cause why the petition should not be granted. In April the council appointed a committee of five to report to the society at its annual meeting what action should be taken.

At this point it may be proper to remark that the Berkshire county physicians through the stimulus of Henry Halsey Childs had been occupying a prominent position in the medical world because of the establishment of the Berkshire Medical Institution at Pittsfield September 18, 1823. Childs had served two years in the Legislature, in 1816 and 1827, was later to become lieutenant-governor, had been a persistent agitator for the establishment of a medical college in Berkshire and had been successful, for he, Asa Burbank and Daniel Collins were granted a charter. He took the chair of theory and practice of medicine. After 1837, when the college was separated from Williams College, Childs was president of the Berkshire Medical Institution, directing its affairs almost to the time of its dissolution in 1867 after advancing years had forced him to resign. This was in 1863. He died in 1868, having been the moving spirit in an important feature of medical education in Massachusetts, for he raised endowments, erected buildings, collected a library and solicited teachers for his life hobby. In medical matters, at this time, the western end of the state felt itself fully the equal of the counties bordering on the seacoast, for had it not an active medical school that was training a goodly number of practitioners of medicine yearly? In the year 1830 Harvard Medical School conferred the M. D. degree on twenty-one young men while the Berkshire Medical Institution did the same for twenty-four. Many of the instructors in the Pittsfield school were eminent men from the neighboring states. Such names as Chester Dewey, John P. Batchelder, Josiah Goodhue, Gilman Kimball, Alonzo B. Palmer were among those on the teaching staff.



The Legislature had just passed an act (March 19, 1831) repealing provisions of the act of 1803 which required applicants for fellowship to have passed at least three years in the practice of medicine, and also the provision entitling Licentiates and Bachelors of Medicine to the use of the libraries of the society, while granting to the society authority to collect its debts by suing for them in the courts.

The committee of the council to which was referred the petition of H. H. Childs and forty others reported at great length on June 1, of this year, recommending that a memorial be presented to the Legislature remonstrating against the prayer of the physicians of Berkshire. The report was signed by E. Hale, Jr., Rufus Wyman, William J. Walker, George Hayward and Z. B. Adams, the committee. The memorial set forth that the Berkshire fellows had no just ground for complaint; that the annual dues of three dollars had always been promptly remitted when a fellow had "fallen into impoverished circumstances"; that a separate society was unnecessary; that the parent society had always been disposed to grant assistance to the district societies; that it had had a uniform standard of qualifications for the practice of medicine and in that way had been able to accomplish so much for the public good; several independent societies would not promote harmony and mutual confidence.

The report was accepted and the memorial presented to the Legislature. Dr. Childs offered a resolution to the council that the by-laws of the society be changed to the effect that the fellows of the society should pay their assessments to their district treasurers, if there happened to be a district society where they lived, the dues to be appropriated in such a manner as the district society should deem most conducive to the best interests of the medical profession. The resolution was referred to a committee of two from each of the "seven districts for counsellors" at that time, with the result that another committee was appointed to "consider the expediency of paying over to the district societies for the purpose of purchasing books to become the property of said district societies, all sums received for licenses by the boards of censors of those districts; and otherwise to encourage the formation and increase of district societies." The last committee was to make its report at the February meeting of the council in 1832. Before this time arrived, however, a new district society had been



formed, namely, the Hampshire society. Here is the council record under date of October 5, 1831:

"An application was received from several Fellows in Hampshire county for the formation of a District Society. *Voted*, That the prayer of the petition be granted and that the charter of the Society be transmitted to Dr. Joseph H. Flint of Northampton."

Dr. George Hayward was recording secretary of the parent society at this time. Joseph Henshaw Flint had been orator at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1826, the title of his discourse being: "On the Prophylactic Management of Infants and Early Childhood," published in the Medical Communications. At this time Flint was a councilor for the Third Medical District. The new district society made its first report to the council at the annual meeting of that body, June 7, 1832. We read in the record of that meeting the following entry:

"A petition from the Hampshire District Medical Society, which was presented at the last adjourned meeting & referred to this meeting, praying for an allowance of one half of the assessments paid by those fellows who are members of that society, and for a loan of books from the library was read. Dr. Hale then read a letter from the President of that District Society, communicating a vote of said society, authorizing and requesting him, in case the By-Laws on the subject of district societies, which had been proposed by a committee, should have been adopted by the Society, to ask leave to withdraw the petition. Leave was granted, accordingly, & the petition was withdrawn."

In the by-laws of 1832 provision was made that the district societies should collect the dues of their members and that one third of the amount received should be appropriated for a library of the district society, provided the district should distribute the publications.

On February 3, 1833 the secretary of the Hampshire district had sent a letter that was read to the council communicating the fact that that society had voted to agree to distribute the publications of the Massachusetts Medical Society, "and to collect, as far as practicable, the assessments of fellows belonging to said district society, agreeably to the provisions of the 44th By-Law." At this meeting a committee was appointed to designate the books to be delivered to the several district medical societies as they became entitled to them under the provisions of the by-laws. Therefore we see that machinery was put in operation for the four district societies that existed at that time. Berkshire assented to the arrangement in June, 1833.

In the revised by-laws of 1837 the provisions as to district

societies included the retention of one-third part of the dues of the members of the societies provided they, the district societies, distributed the publications of the parent society. The treasurer of the general society was to notify the district treasurer in the first week in May annually as to all the assessments that would be due from the members of the district on the last Wednesday of that month; the local treasurer was to collect them as soon after the annual meeting as might be and to notify the treasurer of delinquents after the first of January following, sending him two thirds of the receipts on or before the first day of February. Should a district society neglect to comply with these conditions its privileges would be recalled. The third part of the dues that were retained was to be used for a library to belong to the district society.

The condition of the district societies at this time was not a stable one. Berkshire had notified the recording secretary in February, 1837 of "its dissolution." Extracts from a letter written by John S. Butler, secretary of the Worcester district, to Enoch Hale, corresponding secretary of the society, under date of January 11, 1838, show what he thought about the situation in his district. He wrote:

"As a body the medical profession in this County have done but little, some of them have met once a year; sometimes have heard a dissertation; always have chosen officers, and always have adjourned without, in my poor opinion, having done much for the advancement of themselves or the noble profession to which they belong. I am happy to say that there seems now to be a different spirit arising among us . . . Efforts are making to establish more frequent meetings & to make those meetings more interesting and more than all, to bring in to the Society more of the physicians of the County. As near as I can ascertain there are about 130 physicians and only 65 Fellows. This state of things ought not to exist" . . .

He goes on to complain of the by-laws which required graduates from out of the state to pay a ten-dollar fee for their licenses, while the graduates of the Harvard Medical School and the Berkshire Medical Institution paid no fee. Further he writes: "The publication & distribution of the admirably selected & handsome volumes of the Society have had an excellent effect & have done our County societies much good." He speaks of the by-law which prohibits consultations with irregular practitioners as a "dead letter, bringing disrespect upon our laws and diminishing our just influence" but has no remedy to propose.

The next district society to be established was the Bristol South; in 1839. The council received the following petition at its meeting, October 3, 1838:

"The subscribers hereby make application for the establishment of a district medical society to be called the *Southern Medical District Society*; to include the following towns viz New Bedford, Fall River, Taunton, Freetown, Fairhaven, Dartmouth, and Westport of Bristol County; Middleboro, Rochester and Wareham of Plymouth County; Chilmark, Tisbury & Edgartown of Dukes County and Nantucket, and the place of meeting to be at New Bedford.

(Signed)

Alexander Read  
Paul Spooner  
Samuel Sawyer  
Julius S. Mayhew  
Andrew Mackie  
William C. Whitridge"

New Bedford, September 12, 1838.

The petition was referred to a committee of three which recommended accepting it and establishing the society after the council had been informed that the petition represented a general desire of the fellows who were situated in the towns named. According to a second report of the committee, consisting of Enoch Hale, S. D. Townsend and John Homans, dated February 22, 1839, the information had been furnished by Dr. Read and the "Southern District Medical Society" was chartered. Samuel Sawyer informed the corresponding secretary by letter that the society had been organized, the letter being read to the council October 5, 1839. In another letter from the new society, Sawyer, who was secretary, says that the society was organized on April 3, 1839. In the same letter, dated May 15, 1841, he reports that two fellows of Nantucket, "owing to their insular and remote situation, have requested of the Southern District Medical Society their consent and approbation to aid them in being set off therefrom." The society regretted the loss of the aid and counsel of these members but cordially consented to their request. The two fellows state in their petition that they were the only fellows then residing in Nantucket, a fact borne out by the catalogue of 1840; that it was asking too much for them to travel sixty miles across the ocean to attend meetings in New Bedford.

Two new district societies were chartered in 1840, Barnstable and Hampden. Before we trace their beginnings let us look at a vote passed by the council in February of that year with the comment that the society would profit were it observed at the present time:





"Voted, That it shall be the duty of the secretary of each district society to communicate to the corresponding secretary notice of any changes that may occur in his district by the death or removal of a Fellow of the Society."

All district secretaries are provided with a supply of death notification blanks at the present time. Unfortunately time and work are necessary in order to fill in the blanks with the facts as to the life of the deceased members with the result that few blanks are prepared and sent to headquarters, therefore information must come to the secretary through the newspapers, occasional friends, or not at all.

On May 28, 1840 the council voted to grant the petition of those members of the society residing in Barnstable County to establish a district medical society. The petition has not been preserved. The catalogue of 1840 furnishes the names of the members in that county. Here they are: George Atwood, Orleans; Elijah W. Carpenter, Chatham; Aaron Cornish, Falmouth; Daniel W. Davis, Wellfleet; Oliver Ford, Barnstable; James B. Forsyth, Sandwich; John Harpur, Sandwich; Clarendon G. Holbrook, Dennis; Thomas P. Jackson, Yarmouth; Joseph Sampson, Brewster; Benjamin F. Seabury, Orleans; Henry Tuck, Barnstable; Bennet Wing, West Barnstable.

The petition of the majority of the members residing in Hampden County was accepted at the meeting of the council on May 28, 1840. According to the 1840 catalogue there were fourteen members in that county. The petition which follows is signed by eight:

"To the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society: The subscribers, a majority of the Fellows of said society, resident in the County of Hampden, hereby request that a district medical society, comprising all the fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society residing within the limit of said county may be established; to be called the Hampden District Medical Society; the meetings of which shall be held in the town of Springfield.

(Signed)

Joseph H. Flint	} Springfield
William Bridgman	
George Hooker	
Bela B. Jones	
Reuben Champion	West Springfield
John Appleton	Westfield
L. W. Humphreys	Southwick
Aaron King	Palmer"

The records show that the Hampden district society had been organized previous to the meeting of the council in October, 1840.

By the minutes of the council meeting of February 3, 1841 we learn that the officers of the Barnstable district society were as follows: Joseph Sampson of Brewster, President; Aaron Cornish of Falmouth, Vice-President; Henry Tuck of Barnstable, Secretary; James B. Forsyth of Sandwich, Treasurer; Thomas B. Jackson of Yarmouth, Librarian and Curator. The next year the new society reported to the council in the customary manner.

In October, 1841 the petition of the Essex North physicians to form a society by that name was granted. The by-laws of that year say nothing about the number of names that ought to be signed to a petition for a district society. This is signed by three only. It is dated at Bradford, October 5, 1841.

"At a meeting of the physicians of Essex North District, held at Bradford on the first Wednesday of September, 1841, by invitation extended to all the physicians residing in the towns of Amesbury, Andover, Boxford, Bradford, Georgetown, Haverhill, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, Westnewbury, who are members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. The subscribers were appointed a committee for the purpose of petitioning the counsellors of said society, for a charter to constitute them a district society. We therefore in pursuance of the unanimous vote of the members so assembled, respectfully request you to grant them a charter to establish them as the Essex North District Medical Society; to hold meetings in the town of Bradford, and invest them with the powers and privileges of similar societies.

(Signed)

Rufus Longley  
Jeremiah Spofford  
Dean Robinson"

Of these signers Jeremiah Spofford was perhaps the best known. Born in Rowley he spent his life in Groveland, living to the ripe age of ninety-two years. When about thirty he began to write for the "*Gazetteer of Massachusetts*," editions of which he brought out in 1828 and in 1860; for thirty years he was associate editor of the *Haverhill Gazette*, furnishing to its columns many biographies of the medical worthies of the time, especially of the members of the Essex North District Medical Society; in addition he published two editions of the genealogy of the Spofford family, one in 1850 and the other in 1870, when he was eighty-two years old. In 1850 he wrote a letter of protest to Henry I. Bowditch, then recording secretary, against an attempt to dismember the Essex North society, hoping that the council would not favor the proposition. As to the transportation facilities in the district at that time he says: "You will observe there is now a rail road from Lawrence to Haverhill and a rail road from Newburyport to Georgetown, the

intermediate five miles from Haverhill to Georgetown through Groveland, is chartered, and it is likely will be under construction within a year, which will make it one of the most convenient districts in the state."

The minutes of the council for May 30, 1844 contain this entry, in the handwriting of D. Humphreys Storer, recording secretary:

"Dr. Dalton of Lowell, presented the request of a Committee, of members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, resident in the northerly section of the County of Middlesex, that the Counsellors would issue a charter for the establishment of a District Medical Society." "The subject was referred to a Committee consisting of Drs. Dalton, Green and Howe, with the request that they report to the Councillors at their next meeting."

The committee reported at the October meeting in that year that they had drawn up a petition for a society that had been signed by twenty-three out of twenty-seven fellows residing in the proposed district and accordingly recommended that a charter be granted, as it was by a vote passed at once. This is the petition:

"The undersigned, members of the Massachusetts Medical Society resident in the northerly section of the County of Middlesex, believe that the establishment of a district medical society within its limits, embracing the following towns viz: Lowell, Billerica, Ashley, Townsend, Pepperell, Dunstable, Groton, Shirley, Tyngsboro', Chelmsford, Carlisle, Littleton, Dracutt, Tewksbury, Concord and Acton, (the meetings of which shall be holden in the city of Lowell) would be of great utility. Being desirous of enjoying the advantages and privileges of such an institution, we do hereby pledge ourselves (should a petition for a charter to that effect already in the hands of the Counsellors be granted) to become active members of the same, by attending its meetings and otherwise promoting its interests as opportunity may occur."

The prominent medical men in Lowell at this time besides John C. Dalton, who presented the petition, but otherwise appeared to have nothing to do with the formation of the district society, were Elisha Huntington, who was at the time mayor of the city and was to be president of the Middlesex North District Society and preside over the parent society in 1855-1857. He it was who had petitioned the Legislature three years before for a charter for a medical school in Lowell. John Orne Green had a very large practice, was physician to St. John's Hospital, had written a history of the smallpox in Lowell (1837) and was to give the annual discourse before the parent society on the factory system in its hygienic relations, in the year 1846. Gilman Kimball, pioneer ovariologist, had not yet begun to operate on ovarian tumors but he was professor of surgery at Woodstock, Vermont



and at the Berkshire Medical Institution at Pittsfield, performing some unusual and difficult operations at the Lowell Corporation Hospital, where he was surgeon-in-chief.

The records in the council minutes of the founding of the Suffolk and Bristol North districts are scanty and a bit casual. At a special meeting of the council May 29, 1849 is this entry: "*Voted, That permission be given to the Fellows residing in Suffolk County to form a district society.*" We may suppose that the usual formalities were observed and look to the records of the district society to find out who the officers were and what was done at the early meetings. At the stated meeting of the council, held May 31, 1849, this record was made: "Petitions from Dr. M. R. Randall &c to be set apart as the Bristol District Medical Society, & of Dr. Charles Howe &c of Taunton to be united with it were *granted.*"

From the constitution of the "Bristol District Medical Society" which has been preserved we note that under date of June 20, 1849 the officers who had been elected at the first meeting were: President, Seba Carpenter of Pawtucket; Vice-President, M. R. Randall of North Rehoboth; Secretary, William F. Perry of Mansfield; Librarians, Phineas Savery of Attleborough and James B. Dean of Taunton. The constitution provided that the society should hold quarterly meetings alternately at East Attleborough and Taunton, five members should constitute a quorum and it should be the "duty of the members to read a dissertation beginning alphabetically with their names."

It would appear that the Suffolk district society became independent at once for we read in the record of February 6, 1850: "The President [John Ware] stated that the Suffolk District Medical Society have held their meetings in the Counsellors room [at the Masonic Temple] without due authority. He suggested that leave be granted to that effect." And this: "On motion of Dr. Bigelow, it was voted, that the Suffolk District Medical Society be allowed to use the Counsellors' room, at any time when it is not required by the Counsellors, for their own use, at such a rent as the President & Treasurer shall deem just, said society paying all contingent expenses." At this meeting the recording secretary stated that he had received official notice of the formation of the Bristol District Medical Society and of the Suffolk District Medical Society, Henry I. Bowditch being the recording secretary of the parent society. At the same meeting began the quarrel with

the homeopathic practitioners that was to last for twenty-five years. Suffolk took a hand in it soon, as appears from this vote at the May meeting next following: "Dr. Jeffries presented a memorial from the Suffolk District Medical Society, relative to certain members of the Society, who had violated the laws. The committee to which the memorial was referred reported that the cases of infraction of the by-laws ought to be referred back to the Suffolk District to try each offender and render such verdict to the council as it saw fit."

A proposition to redistrict the state was advocated in the council in the year 1849 when the following committee was appointed at the meeting on October 3: E. Reynolds of Suffolk, Chairman, Pond of Worcester, Ufford of Hampshire, Worthington of Berkshire, Bartlett of Norfolk, Carpenter of Bristol and Adams of Middlesex. Several times the committee asked for more time, reporting finally in October, 1850. The situation was complicated by the desire to consolidate the three counties of Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin. Each district was willing to combine if the meetings could be held in its territory, except that Franklin was "offish" and the council records tell us that the president had had a private letter informing him that the practitioners of Franklin County had formed a medical society independent of the Massachusetts Medical Society. This was in February, 1851. The letter is in the files. A committee consisting of H. I. Bowditch, Daniel Thompson of Northampton and Andrew Mackie of New Bedford got into touch with the councilors residing in Franklin to learn the exact facts, reported to the council in May of that year and as a result it was *Voted*, "That Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin be made district societies." By the redistricting and by petition the following new district societies came into existence in the year 1850: Middlesex East, Middlesex South, Norfolk and Plymouth, and in 1851 Franklin District, making a total of sixteen, the remaining districts of Worcester North and Norfolk South being formed in the years 1858 and 1884, respectively.

By the vote of October 2, 1850 the districts in the following counties corresponded with the county lines: Barnstable, Berkshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester. Later, as we have seen, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin were added. The counties of Essex and Bristol were each separated into two societies, Essex North and Essex South and Bristol North and Bristol South, the last district

representing the former "Southern District." Plymouth was to form one district except that the towns of Middleborough, Rochester and Wareham were to belong to Bristol South, as well as Dukes and Nantucket counties. Middlesex County was divided into three districts, as at present, Middlesex East, Middlesex North and Middlesex South.

The arrangement of the districts remained the same until 1858 when a petition of Alvah Godding of Winchendon and twenty-eight others for a new district to be called the "Worcester North District Medical Society" was granted by the council on May 25. The petition was first filed October 7, 1857, the adjoining districts of Worcester and Middlesex North were consulted and the matter deferred until both had been heard from. The petitioners contended that they were put to an unreasonable expenditure of both time and money to attend the meetings of either the Worcester or the Middlesex North societies. Therefore the new district was established to consist of the following towns: Royalston, Winchendon, Ashburnham, Athol, Phillipston, Templeton, Gardner, Westminster, Fitchburg, Lunenburg, Leominster and Petersham in the county of Worcester and Ashby, Townsend and Shirley in the county of Middlesex.

Among the petitioners for the new society was Alfred Hitchcock, the chief surgeon of Fitchburg. Born in 1813 he had received three M. D.'s. First, one from Dartmouth in 1838; the second, from the Berkshire Medical Institution in 1843, and the third from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia in 1845. He had been honored also by an A. M. from Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1844. From 1847 to 1855 Dr. Hitchcock had been a member of the Governor's council. In 1867 he was to do an esophagotomy for the removal of a foreign body, one of the earliest operations of this kind to be performed, and he was credited with designing a stretcher, a surgical operating chair and a splint. In this same year, 1867, he published a pamphlet on "Christianity and Medical Science," which may have been the basis of his oration before the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society two years later, with the title, "Organic and parallel relation of some of the practical truths and errors of Christianity and medical science."

Before the eighteenth and last district was organized in 1884 it may be well to mention one or two minor matters connected with the district societies. In 1860 the Middlesex North district filed a



protest with the council against voting by proxy at the annual meeting of that district, alleging that a president of the district had been elected by proxy votes. The council discussed the protest and voted to indefinitely postpone action. In the year 1868 Roxbury became a part of Boston and therefore was added to Suffolk County, having been previously in Norfolk County. Certain fellows residing in Roxbury petitioned February 5, 1868 to be included in the Suffolk district while eight others and the Norfolk district itself petitioned to be allowed to remain as they were. A committee consisting of Anson Hooker of Cambridge, Eben Stone of Walpole and Francis Minot of Boston considered the petition, recommending that those who had petitioned to be joined to Suffolk have leave to withdraw, and it was so voted.

As regards the towns and the territory comprised within the limits of the different districts several changes or attempted changes have been referred to in this chapter. In 1885 the council voted on June 5 to transfer the town of Hull from the Plymouth to the Norfolk South district and on the seventh of October following it transferred the town of Stoughton from Norfolk to Plymouth. In the same way Somerset and Swansea were transferred from Bristol North to Bristol South, and Lakeville and Middleborough from Bristol South to Bristol North, on June 7, 1910. The Suffolk district, established in 1849, has suffered changes in its boundaries owing to the growth of the city of Boston. It now consists of Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop, except the areas which have been added to the city since 1868, namely, Charlestown, Brighton (Middlesex South), and Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury and Hyde Park (Norfolk). As surrounding territory became a part of the city, beginning with Roxbury in 1868, the added territory became at the same time a part of Suffolk County. Charlestown, however, remained in the Middlesex South district, and Brighton, previously set off from Cambridge, was not added to the Suffolk district when it became a part of the city in 1874 but stayed in the Middlesex South district. In the same way Roxbury, West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester and lastly Hyde Park in 1912, all previously in Norfolk County, were transferred to Suffolk County by being made parts of the city of Boston but they were not included in the Suffolk district of the Massachusetts Medical Society. We have seen that a petition was presented by fellows residing in Roxbury in 1868 asking

that they might be included in the Suffolk district, that others wished to remain in Norfolk and that the council decided that Roxbury should stay in Norfolk. On February 5, 1875 a petition was presented from fourteen fellows of Charlestown asking to be transferred from the Middlesex South to the Suffolk district. This was denied at the next meeting because a transfer of the fellows and not the territory was asked for. At the annual meeting of the council, June 13, 1876, when all of the Boston territory of Norfolk except Hyde Park had been annexed to the city, a petition was received from five fellows that the council fix and define the boundary between the Suffolk and Norfolk districts. Accordingly a committee consisting of R. L. Hodgdon, H. W. Williams and J. P. Maynard brought in a definite recommendation in October of that year making the line roughly the northerly dividing line of old Dorchester and Roxbury, through Swett and Northampton Streets to the Providence Division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railway, to the middle of Massachusetts Avenue, to the Boston and Albany Railway (New York Central), along the railway to the Brookline town line, which separated Boston and Brighton from that town.

No change in the line was attempted until June 10, 1890 when Francis H. Brown and others presented a petition that it be changed and also Dr. Benjamin Cushing and others asked for a hearing to the members of the Norfolk District Medical Society living in Dorchester and Roxbury who wished to be annexed to the Suffolk district. A committee consisting of the presidents of the districts affected and the president of the Middlesex South district gave a hearing and reported February 4, 1891 that no one had appeared for Dr. Cushing, nineteen members of Norfolk residing in Jamaica Plain had protested, that Dr. Brown had argued in favor of changing the line and that Dr. H. Lincoln Chase of Brookline and six others had favored the annexation of Brookline to Suffolk. The committee recommended that the petitioners have leave to withdraw and that changes in the boundary line ought not to be made. The recommendations were adopted.

Another petition for a change was put in by Dr. M. E. Webb of Boston and others at the annual meeting in 1892 and the usual committee appointed to consider it. Dr. C. E. Vaughan, the president of Middlesex South, reported October 5, 1892 with the boundary that has persisted until the present although another



attempt was made in 1913, on a petition by forty-nine fellows, to effect a change. In the last year the Fellows residing or having their place of practice in the new Harvard Medical School group of buildings, off Longwood Avenue, wished to be affiliated with the Suffolk district rather than with the Norfolk. The dividing line in that region, laid down by the committee of 1892, runs through the middle of Muddy River in the Back Bay Park to St. Mary's Street and by the middle of that street to the Charles River. Therefore the medical school buildings are in the Norfolk district. The committee of 1913, headed by the neutral president of the Worcester district, could not get the members of the two districts to agree on any changes and the matter was dropped.

There was a petition drawn up in January, 1870, signed by eight fellows living in Lynn, that the city of Lynn and the towns of Swampscott, Nahant, Saugus and Lynnfield be set off from the Essex South district as a new district. The committee appointed to report on this petition, consisting of B. E. Coting of Roxbury, Ebenezer Hunt of Danversport and B. B. Breed of Lynn, wrote to the council that they

"met at Lynn on Wednesday May 17, 1870, and were joined by a majority of the petitioners and nearly an equal number of physicians of Salem and vicinity. It appears that at present the Essex South District Medical Society consists of fifty-four members; thirteen of whom reside in Lynn, fourteen in Salem, and the remaining twenty-seven (exactly half the whole number) in thirteen neighboring towns, with the utmost professional harmony between the parties. The Lynn gentlemen earnestly urged that a division would greatly benefit them, and not injure the remaining portion of the old society. The Salem gentlemen and others not of Lynn, on the contrary, with equal earnestness, urged that a division would injure the society, without benefitting those wishing to be set off from it.

The committee therefore agreed to represent the facts, and to suggest that if the councillors (with whom alone rests any power in the premises) are willing to adopt the policy of dividing up the State into small districts to consist of those who may wish to unite for mutual improvement and Support — a fair opportunity is here afforded to begin with; and in such case, the councillors will grant the request of the petitioners. But if the councillors intend to continue the larger divisions, as heretofore, they will grant the petitioners leave to withdraw."

The committee's report was read to the council on May 24, 1870 and it was voted that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

The matter was not settled until a similar petition, signed by Daniel Perley and fourteen other residents of Lynn, had been presented to the council at its February meeting in 1872. This



was referred to G. H. Lyman of Suffolk, Augustus Torrey of Beverly, Essex South, and Isaac F. Galloupe of Lynn, Essex South. At the June meeting of that year a majority of the committee reported that the petitioners should have leave to withdraw, Dr. Galloupe presenting a minority report and the subject receiving a thorough discussion. The council accepted the majority report.

The district societies had not had a direct voice in nominating the officers and orator of the society until February 4, 1874, the president having appointed the nominating committee at the annual meeting. Dr. W. W. Comstock of Middleborough had introduced a resolution, through Dr. Mackie, in the previous February and again in person in June, 1873, providing for the appointment of a nominating councilor by each district society at its annual meeting. The resolution although laid on the table bore fruit in 1874 when the following was passed:

*"Resolved, That it shall be the duty of each district medical society, at its meeting next preceding the annual meeting of the State Society, to select one of its councillors as its representative in the nominating committee for the officers of said society; and in case of neglect of any district medical society in the performance of such duty, the selection shall devolve on its councillors who shall be present at such annual meeting."*

This became one of the "Standing Votes and Resolves" at once and was included in the by-laws themselves in the revision of 1913, in the chapter on the district societies.

At one time or another district societies were permitted by the council to hold meetings in other towns than those first appointed in their charters. In recent years it has been the custom in the larger districts, those covering a considerable expanse of territory, to alternate between two or more towns or cities in the district. Sometimes meetings are held in convenient meeting-places in adjoining districts and not within the confines of the districts themselves.

The town of Ayer, previously Groton of the Middlesex North district, was assigned to the Worcester North district, February 5, 1879, upon petition of the latter district, after due consideration by a committee of the council.

The eighteenth and last district medical society to be chartered, the Norfolk South District Medical Society, was established October 1, 1884. The petition which was presented to the council on June 11 of that year runs as follows:



"We, the undersigned physicians, members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, constituting the 'Union Medical and Surgical Association,' with three other physicians not at present members of the State Society but intending to become such, respectfully petition the Board of Councillors of aforesaid society to establish a new district medical society comprising the physicians of Quincy, Braintree, Randolph, Holbrook, Weymouth, Hingham, and Cohasset, with the usual powers, privileges and responsibilities; to be named the Norfolk South District Medical Society or such other name as may seem proper. (Signed) F. F. Forsaith, T. H. Dearing, C. C. Tower, R. E. Brown, J. C. Fraser, G. W. Tinkham, F. C. Granger, John F. Welch, J. A. Gordon, J. H. Gilbert, S. M. Donovan, W. A. Drake, C. E. Prior, J. B. Kingsbury, J. H. Robbins, C. A. Dorr, J. Winthrop Spooner, George W. Fay, S. C. Bridgham."

The petition was referred to a committee consisting of R. M. Hodges of Suffolk, C. Ellery Stedman of Norfolk and J. W. Spooner of Plymouth, which gave a hearing to all those interested, at the Medical Library, then at 19 Boylston Place, on July 11, 1884, subsequently advising that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, as it was at the next meeting of the council. At the present time the Norfolk South district comprises the towns mentioned above, Quincy being now a city, and in addition the town of Hull in Plymouth County. By the last directory of the society there were eighty fellows in the district.

## CHAPTER XI

### PUBLICATIONS

THE following report found in the Bowditch Book of old documents belonging to the society shows that there was a movement on foot as early as 1784 to consider the medical communications that had been presented to the society, with a view to publishing them. Other similar societies, such as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, had published memoirs and it was natural that the new state medical society should do likewise. The report follows:

"The committee of Council appointed May 19, 1784 'To take into Consideration all Letters before that Time received by the Medical Society,' have attended the Service and are of Opinion that it will be unnecessary that any of them should at present be recorded, but would recommend their being numbered and kept on File—and that as soon as may be, that a List of them with the Titles of their Contents and Some of the leading Sentiments of some of them be published together with the author's name, and that the whole of Doct. Holyoke's Register of current Diseases for 1783 be published and recommended as a Specimen for the Order and Method to be observed in the future Communications of that Kind, by the members of the Medical Society, or such Part of his Account as shall be judged necessary for that Purpose."

On May 8, 1787 Dr. Holyoke addressed a long letter to the committee having the papers in charge, making suggestions as to their publication, the sort of papers to publish, the scope of the preface and other matters. The secretary, Dr. Appleton, commented on the papers, which had been numbered, when he wrote to the committee, later in May of the same year. Cotton Tufts made a contribution to the discussion regarding what constituted suitable material for a volume, in a letter dated August 13, 1789, now preserved in the files. This was after the following vote of the Council, October 1, 1788:

"Whereas Mr. Isaiah Thomas has published Proposals for printing a new magazine. Voted, as the opinion of this Council, that the Society do from time to time publish in the said magazine such Medical Communications as have





been, or may be made to the Soc'y & which shall be judged proper for publick inspection."

In the so-called Bowditch Book, a scrapbook of valuable society papers prepared by Henry I. Bowditch when he was secretary of the society in 1851, and now preserved in the safe in the vault at the Boston Medical Library, is this memorandum without date, but probably referring to Volume I of the Medical Communications, published in 1790:

"Calculation for printing a volume for the Massachusetts Medical Society" by Thomas and Andrews, giving the expense, using printing paper at 18 s. per ream, which is very good.

On account of the scarcity of suitable papers the vote of the council was reconsidered at the meeting of that body on October 23, 1788, and an attempt was made to procure papers. When, two years later, sufficient material had been obtained and the first volume appeared the preface contained this statement:

"The progress of numbers when connected in society, and earnestly engaged in the same pursuit, must be far more rapid and more sure, than among an equal number of detached individuals; as the ardor and emulation which the state of society excites, and the mutual communication and correction of ideas for which it gives opportunity among the former, are entirely wanting with the latter." "It is therefore to be hoped that the Massachusetts Medical Society may produce happy effects, in promoting among ourselves, the improvement of medicine, a science of the greatest importance to the public, but which unhappily, in this country, has hitherto been too little cultivated."

This first volume of Medical Communications was of one hundred and twenty-eight pages. The title page was: "MEDICAL PAPERS communicated to the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY to which are subjoined, Extracts from various authors, containing some of the Improvements which have lately been made in Physic and Surgery. Published by the Society. Number 1. Printed at Boston, Massachusetts, By Thomas and Andrews At Faust's Statue, No. 45, Newbury Street. MDCCXC." The contract with Thomas and Andrews may be found in the chapter headed Financial. After a preface of pages numbered i to vii came the original act of incorporation, lists of the fifty-six living fellows and ten living honorary members in 1789, and the officers of the society in that year. There were twelve articles by the following fellows: Edward A. Holyoke, William Baylies, Joseph Orne, Nathaniel W. Appleton, Edward Wyer, Isaac Rand, senior and Isaac Rand, junior, Joseph Osgood, Thomas Welsh, a second article

by William Baylies, a second by Joseph Orne and a final article by Thomas Kast. At the present time the subjects of these papers do not so much matter; they were a praiseworthy beginning of records of observations and deductions from those observations, set forth in good English. The final twenty-nine pages were filled with an appendix of seven articles by Benjamin Rush, Mr. Jones, Surgeon at Birmingham, an extract from "Manning's Modern Improvements in the Practice of Physic" and an extract from a letter from Dr. Hamilton, of Lynn Regis, to Dr. Duncan at Edinburgh, thereby furnishing the fellows of the society with desirable medical reading matter from outside New England, in addition to the local articles. It was a brave little volume to put forth to the medical profession of the country by a state which seemed at that time not so far away in the north-eastern corner of the Union as it does today.

The reception of the volume is shown by the subjoined letter.

LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
GIVING THANKS FOR THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE MEDICAL  
COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.  
(Bowditch Book. Vol. 1, p. 97.)

"To John Warren Esq. M.D. A.A. & M.M.S.

Corresponding Secretary,

Cambridge, 2 Sep<sup>br</sup>. 1790.

Sir,

Agreeably to a vote of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, I have to request the favor of your returning the thanks of the Academy to the Massachusetts Medical Society for their very obliging & very acceptable present of the first number of their Medical Papers. The good of our species being the common & ultimate object of both institutions, the members of the Academy cannot but rejoice in the prosperity & increasing utility of the Medical Institution, & will be ever happy in a reciprocal communication of Papers & Memoirs. I have the honor to be,

with sentiments of sincere respect & friendship,

Sir,

your most obedient,

& very humble servant

E. Pearson, Cor. Sec<sup>y</sup>."

NOTE. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences had presented to the Massachusetts Medical Society through Joseph Willard, Corresponding Secretary, to Nathaniel W. Appleton, Recording Secretary, under date of October 6, 1787, a copy of the Memoirs of the Academy. By the above vote it appears that the Massachusetts Medical Society had returned the compliment.

In June, 1800 (June 23) the council voted that a publication be made in the Boston newspapers communicating a determination



speedily to publish another volume of their memoirs, and requesting that all gentlemen whether belonging to the society or not, who may have in their possession such medical facts or observations as may be productive of the diffusion of medical science throughout this Commonwealth be earnestly requested to transmit them to Dr. Joseph Whipple of Boston, their corresponding secretary. This action must be classed with good intentions, for the second volume did not appear until 1806 when a pamphlet of six papers appeared, to be followed in 1808 by eleven more. In 1813 a sheep-covered book of five hundred and sixty-two pages, containing a list of Fellows and nineteen papers came from the press of Thomas B. Wait of Boston. Among the articles were communications from James Mann, James Jackson, John Warren and his son, John C. Warren, Joshua Fisher and the noteworthy sketch of the progress of medical science in Massachusetts by Josiah Bartlett. The enterprise and energy of John C. Warren and James Jackson were responsible for the appearance of the second volume.

The council record of October 6, 1806 has this entry: "Josiah Bartlett, James Jackson and Aaron Dexter were appointed a committee of publication." This is the first committee on publications appointed by the society. What the committee accomplished does not appear from the records. We have to wait until June 5, 1817 before we find another such committee appointed, namely:

*"Voted, That the corresponding and recording secretaries with the librarian constitute a committee of publication to ascertain what papers are worthy of publication; and if they can be printed without involving the society farther in debt; and that they make report at the next meeting of the counsellors."*

At the next meeting it appeared that the society was indebted to the amount of \$314.73; at the following meeting, February 24, 1818, the committee on publications reported progress and had further time granted. It is to be noted that the corresponding and recording secretaries had had printed and distributed five hundred copies of the by-laws in October, 1816, thereby depleting the finances of the society.

No further record is to be found until October 24, 1820, when a committee of publication was chosen, consisting of Doctors Warren, Dixwell and Gorham, that is to say, the corresponding and recording secretaries and Dr. Gorham. This committee reported on the best method of distributing the publications; they waited until they gathered enough discourses to print, sent those of less than



eighty pages by mail to the Fellows, the others being distributed by the librarian at the meetings or kept in the library until called for.

In the year 1825 a committee on publications was appointed at the annual meeting, James Jackson then being president, and after that date a committee was appointed yearly.

The first proposition to publish a periodical journal of medicine appears in a vote of the society, June 5, 1811, as follows: "Voted, To refer to the Counsellors a proposition for the publication in the name of the Society of a periodical journal of medicine." Next day the council voted "That it is unnecessary to take any order on the motion referred by the Society to the Counsellors respecting the publication of a periodical journal of medicine." There is a mystery about the reasons for this vote and in the subsequent failure of similar attempts on the part of the society to establish a journal. The following spring, February 19, 1812, we find this entry in the record of an adjourned meeting of the Council: "On motion of Dr. [Josiah] Bartlett. Voted, That the committee of publication be directed to ascertain if possible who are the conductors of a publication entitled the "*New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*," with a view to determine the expediency of incorporating the Communications of the Society in the said publication; & that this committee report at the next meeting of the Counsellors." No further report is to be found in the subsequent records. We are justified in assuming that the committee found out who were the conductors of the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery* for John Gorham, one of the committee of publication, was a founder of that journal and for fifteen years an editor. The journal, a quarterly, was the official organ of the Massachusetts Medical College, then on Marlborough Street (now Washington Street), Boston, the professors of the school being its editors. It began in 1812 and lasted until it was merged into the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* in 1828. Gorham had just graduated from the Medical School and was assisting Aaron Dexter in the teaching of chemistry in that institution. With him on the committee of publication were Dr. Thomas Welsh, Dr. Josiah Bartlett, Dr. John Dixwell and Dr. J. C. Warren, the last being corresponding secretary at this time as well as an associate professor in the school.

The next vote on the question of publications was a council minute of February 1, 1815, to this effect:



"Voted, That in future the Rec. Secretary be directed to publish annually a list of the Counsellors and officers in the "Columbian Centinel" and "Independent Chronicle."

The publications were admitted to the mail as periodicals, according to a letter of the postmaster-general, dated July 27, 1827. The next year it was voted that the librarian [Enoch Hale, Jr.] be authorized to sell any of the publications of the society that might be in hand at one dollar a volume, to those Fellows who had been elected or admitted since their publication. In this year, 1828, a vote was passed which was continued in the years 1829 and 1830, namely:

"Voted, That a premium of one dollar for each printed page be paid to the authors of such original medical communications, as shall be furnished by the Fellows of the Society, previous to the first day of May next, provided they are approved by a committee and do not amount to more than 250 pages."

The president and the two secretaries were the committee referred to.

The "Library of Practical Medicine" was launched in 1831 following a report by Jacob Bigelow, chairman of the publishing committee. The report was dated February 1, 1831. It was:

"That it is expedient for the Society to prepare a compilation or reprint of some practical work or works on Medical Science, not to exceed 500 pages, to be offered to the Fellows of the Society at their next annual meeting."

This was accepted and June 2, 1831 it was

"Voted, That the Librarian be authorized to furnish new members with one copy each of the Library of Practical Medicine published by the Society, at one dollar a copy."

As regards this publication the shelves of the Boston Medical Library show us volumes numbered from one to twenty-five, published between the years 1831 and 1868. The first volume contains "A Treatise on Fever, by S. Smith, M.D." and "Clinical Illustrations of Fever, by A. Tweedie, M.D.," both of London, a book of four hundred and twelve pages. The advertisement says that "the Massachusetts Medical Society was instituted to establish and secure an elevated standard of professional education and character; and to encourage the cultivation and diffusion of medical knowledge." The former object was regarded as successfully accomplished; the Library of Practical Medicine was put out to promote the latter.

Volume twenty-five consists of the prize dissertations for the

year 1868 of Robert T. Edes, James F. Hibberd and John Spare. Volume eleven (1841) was a reprint of a practical treatise on midwifery by the master of the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, Robert Collins; volume eighteen (1848), Evanson and Maunsell on the management and diseases of children, a text-book of four hundred and thirty pages. Thus it is apparent that the society provided its fellows with substantial reading matter during a period of years, affording advantages to those members who were unable, because of their distance from Boston, from enjoying the privileges of the society's library.

The matter of publishing a periodical journal of medicine came up again in 1847 when a motion was made in the council meeting of February 3, by the President, Jacob Bigelow,

"That when the permanent fund of the Society (then amounting to \$9721.02) shall amount to ten thousand dollars, the interest or income of said fund shall be devoted to the publication of a journal, to be issued one or more times in a year, consisting chiefly of such selected articles as may be adapted to convey a knowledge of the progress of Medical Science; and containing also the proceedings & customary publications of the Society for the current year — said journal to be under the charge of the publishing committee." "Voted, That the motion be referred to the Committee on Publications,"

which at this time consisted of Dr. John Homans, Dr. D. H. Storer and Dr. J. B. S. Jackson. The committee reported the following resolution through Enoch Hale, who had been librarian, 1826–1832, recording secretary, 1832–1835, and corresponding secretary, 1835–1838:

"Resolved, That, from and after the first day of January next, 1848, the Committee on Publications be authorized, in lieu of "The Medical Communications," and "The Library of Practical Medicine," to issue a quarterly publication to be called "The Journal of Practical Medicine of the Massachusetts Medical Society," in which shall be published the proceedings of the Society, and the Counsellors, and the annual discourse, unless otherwise ordered, and such original communications as the committee, or the editor employed by them, shall approve; but whose main design shall be to furnish to the members of the Society a succession of valuable essays in practical medicine, selected especially from the best foreign journals; it being understood that the committee shall be at liberty to republish, or procure, at their discretion, any entire works of suitable extent, either as a part of said journal, or as a substitute for a portion of it, whenever they shall judge it expedient; and the committee shall be authorized to appoint one of their own number, or some other suitable person, to act as editor of the proposed journal, under their supervision and direction, and to assign to him such moderate compensation, as the means of the Society and the duties to be performed may render proper;





provided that the whole expense of said journal shall not exceed fifteen hundred dollars a year." "Resolved, That the journal be distributed gratuitously, one copy to each retired member, and one copy to each fellow of the Society from whom no more than one assessment shall have been due at the next preceding annual meeting in each year; provided that new members shall not be entitled to it until the first day of January subsequent to the time when they became fellows." "Resolved, That the Permanent Fund of the Society shall be fixed at the sum of ten thousand dollars, and any surplus exceeding that amount and the annual income of the fund shall be appropriated to the support of the Quarterly Medical Journal, and the balance of the cost of said journal shall be provided for out of the ordinary income of the Society."

Dr. Woodbridge Strong of Boston moved indefinite postponement when the matter came up at the May meeting of the council in 1847. His motion was lost and the report accepted. On October 6, of the same year, Dr. A. L. Peirson of Salem moved that in consequence of the condition of the treasury that publication of a quarterly journal be postponed for one year. The motion was amended by Dr. Z. B. Adams of Boston by striking out the words "for one year" and the motion was passed.

Thus perished the plan to publish a quarterly journal as a mouthpiece for the society. In the year 1913 the publications had become quarterly and the following year came the affiliation with the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, a periodical that had appeared regularly every week since 1828, but was then passing through a crisis in its affairs.

The following entry in the records of the council, October 6, 1847, indicates that the publications were appreciated: "A letter was received from Dr. E. K. Hunt, clerk of the Hartford Co. Medical Society, to ascertain 'whether any arrangement can be made with our society, by which the members of the Medical Society of the State of Connecticut may participate in the advantages which the circulation of the Annual Publication of the Massachusetts Medical Society Affords.'"

The Library of Practical Medicine had included nine volumes of Copland's Medical Dictionary. In 1848 Dr. John Ware submitted a proposition to the council to substitute for the annual publications "a Retrospect of the Medical Literature and Science of the preceding year, having reference especially to discoveries and improvements of practical value." This became effective in the following vote passed by the council October 5, 1853: "That the Recording Secretary be authorized and directed to complete an arrangement with the Messrs. Stringer & Townsend to furnish the

Society with eight hundred copies of Braithwaite's Retrospect semi-annually, to be delivered in Boston at a cost of eight hundred and eighty dollars per annum." . . . In such a way was the distribution of this periodical established. It was to be distributed to those fellows who were paid up or to retired fellows on application. The distribution continued for forty years until the council voted at its October meeting in 1893 to discontinue it, following a canvass of the society by circulars. Of the thirteen hundred replies received to the query whether a fellow would prefer to receive the Retrospect or to give it up and have the annual dues reduced one dollar, 695 preferred to give up the publication, 583 wished to continue as before, and 32 were indifferent. By the treasurer's report for the year 1893 the Retrospect had cost for the preceding year \$2099.75.

In the year 1880 the treasurer, F. W. Draper, had sent out a circular to the fellows to learn whether they were in favor of substituting the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for Braithwaite's Retrospect. Twelve hundred and twenty-five circulars were sent out and 812 replies received, 299 being in favor and 494 opposed, 19 answering that they were "indifferent."

At a meeting of the council on June 7, 1898 Dr. L. G. Chandler offered this motion on behalf of the Worcester North District Society: "That the State Society be requested to furnish free of expense to its Fellows, the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for each year." The question was referred to the committee on publications, consisting at that time of O. F. Wadsworth, G. B. Shattuck, who was the editor of the *Journal*, and H. L. Burrell. The committee reported in October that "such a step would be inexpedient inasmuch as it would require a not inconsiderable increase in the annual assessment," the council concurring in the view of the committee.

This motion indicates a desire on the part of members at a distance from the capital to receive the only medical weekly in New England as a part of the perquisites of membership. At that time the cost of the *Journal* was five dollars a year per subscription and the yearly dues of the society were exactly the same amount.

During the year 1913 the secretary had developed the yearly medical communications of the society into a quarterly publication so that the fellows might receive more frequent instalments of printed matter having to do with the society and to furnish a



society newspaper. He had gone so far as to obtain estimates for publishing a monthly journal for the society, at an expense of less than the amount at that time expended on the annual publications, which was \$3507.37 for 1912-1913. The committee on publications and scientific papers in 1913 consisted of the ex-president of the society, Dr. G. B. Shattuck, who had been for over twenty years editor of the independently controlled *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Dr. E. W. Taylor, then the editor of that publication, Dr. R. B. Osgood, Dr. J. S. Stone and Dr. F. T. Lord. This committee had left the editing of the society's publications entirely to the secretary, holding only one perfunctory meeting each year, just after the annual meeting, to pass on the papers and the proceedings of council and society before their publication. It appearing that the publication of a monthly journal by the society would endanger the existence of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* a movement was started which resulted in the following entry in the minutes of the meeting of the council on October 1, 1913:

"Dr. Homer Gage spoke of the matter of publications. He said that the society often failed to get information about matters of general interest to the members promptly and the question had arisen how to meet this difficulty satisfactorily. Three suggestions had been made: 1. That a special department devoted to the affairs of the society should be created in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, and that every member of the society should receive a copy of the Journal. 2. That the society should take over the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*. And 3. That the present quarterly publication published by the society should be developed along larger lines so that more frequent numbers should be issued. Dr. Gage moved and it was *Voted*, That the question be referred to the Committee on Publications and Scientific Papers, with a request that a report from this committee be given at the next meeting of the Council."

The chairman of the committee on publications and scientific papers, Dr. G. B. Shattuck, presented the report of his committee at the meeting of the council on February 4, 1914. The report was accepted, ordered printed and later referred to a committee of nine, the four officers of the society, president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and five councilors nominated by the president, at that time Dr. W. P. Bowers. The report follows:

"1st. That some connection between the Massachusetts Medical Society and the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* is advisable and feasible. 2nd. That the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* be incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts. 3rd. That after incorporation, the owners agree to give one share of stock to each member of a committee of three, to be ap-



pointed by the Massachusetts Medical Society, one of whom shall be the secretary of the society, which committee shall serve with the owners as directors of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, having control over its affairs. 4th. That when a representative of the Massachusetts Medical Society shall cease to serve on this committee he shall surrender his share of stock to the owners. 5th. That the owners agree that as long as the association with the Massachusetts Medical Society shall continue they will transfer their stock only to physicians approved by the board of directors. 6th. That there shall be added to the editorial staff of the Journal, to be appointed by the directors and with the approval of the editor-in-chief, an editor or editors, who shall represent the Massachusetts Medical Society, and be members of the regular editorial staff on the Journal, having a voice in the conduct of the Journal as well as in matters which peculiarly concern the society. 7th. That in consideration of the advantages expected to be realized by the Massachusetts Medical Society from its association with the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, and in further consideration of the fact that in the opinion of the present publisher such association may at least temporarily entail increased expense to the Journal, to meet which there are at present no available resources, the Massachusetts Medical Society agrees, if it is necessary in the opinion of the directors, to furnish to the directors from its funds a sum not to exceed two thousand dollars a year for three years to compensate the Journal for possible financial loss arising from its association with the Massachusetts Medical Society. 8th. That if the association between the Massachusetts Medical Society and the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* be terminated before three years have elapsed, the Massachusetts Medical Society shall not be held financially responsible for any losses to the Journal after the end of the calendar year in which the association is terminated." The Committee on Publications and Scientific Papers further recommend:

"1st. That if the above suggestions are adopted, the society abandon the separate publication of its proceedings and medical communications, and that as far as practicable it publish these and all other matter only in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, in such form as may be later determined. These publications shall be sent to each member of the society. 2nd. That as soon as possible some arrangement be made whereby each number of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* be furnished to each member of the society. 3rd. That a special committee of three, one of whom shall be the secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society, as previously stated, be appointed, with power to carry out the recommendations of the council and to serve with the owners as directors of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for one year."

At the same meeting in February, 1914 a committee of nine was appointed by the council to further consider the situation, the committee consisting of the president, W. P. Bowers, the vice-president, L. A. Jones, the secretary, W. L. Burrage, the treasurer, E. M. Buckingham, and the following members named by the chair: J. W. Bartol, A. N. Broughton, F. J. Cotton, Homer Gage and E. H. Stevens. The committee reported in June through A. N.



Broughton in an irregular manner as there had been no previous vote by the committee on its report, which stated that the committee had had many meetings, that the old owners, Dr. F. C. Shattuck, Dr. J. C. Warren and Dr. W. L. Richardson had transferred their ownership to Dr. Joel E. Goldthwait, Dr. E. C. Streeter and Dr. Hugh Williams. Later the new owners incorporated the *Journal* under the laws of the Commonwealth as a charitable corporation. The committee of nine favored adopting the *Journal* as the official organ of the society at an expense to the society not to exceed three dollars for each paid-up fellow and asked for voluntary subscriptions toward supplying any deficiency there might be in the funds of the society. The recommendations of the committee were adopted at a special meeting of the council, June 20, 1914, nine thousand five hundred dollars were appropriated at that meeting to carry them out, and a committee of three, namely, the president, Dr. Charles F. Withington, the secretary, Dr. Walter L. Burrage, and Dr. Frederick T. Lord, a member of the standing committee on publications, were appointed with full power to act for the society for the period of one year, the term of the affiliation, the *Journal* assuming the burden of collecting the voluntary subscriptions that were to help along the project. In such a manner the affiliation got its start and every fellow who was paid up in his annual dues received a copy of the *Journal* weekly, containing all such matters as had been contained previously in the publications of the society, i.e., papers, proceedings of both society and council, directory, program of the annual meeting, notices and in addition editorials, news items, book reviews, medical progress in the different departments of medicine, miscellanies and the public health activities in the legislature.

At the meeting of the council on October 7, 1914 the secretary read, at the request of the president, a tentative memorandum of agreement which had been drawn up by Dr. Withington, as between the owners of the *Journal* and the committee of three of the society. The document has been lost. No action was taken on it either by the owners or by the council so that its terms were not binding. It served the purpose of making a start in a practical way.

At the meeting of the council in October, 1914 a vote was passed that the weekly *Journal* should be considered a "publication" for the duration of the agreement and the committee on membership and finance, under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles M. Green,

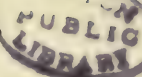


recommended that fellows who were in arrears for two months after the beginning of the financial year, should not receive the publications of the society, a recommendation that was adopted by vote.

In this way the publications, begun in 1790, ceased as independent issues on July 1, 1914, when the affiliation went into effect. After that date they were lost in the pages of the weekly medical journal.

The affiliation with the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* continued under the plan of organization first arranged until the fall of 1919, when Dr. Goldthwait and Dr. Williams resigned as owners. The *Journal* was edited by Dr. Robert M. Green; after about two years Dr. George Gilbert Smith was added to the editorial staff, Dr. Walter L. Burrage, secretary of the society, acting as editor on behalf of the society from the beginning. A board of eight consulting editors was formed and also an "Advisory Committee" consisting of the owners and Dr. Walter P. Bowers, then an ex-president, Dr. Homer Gage, Dr. Lyman A. Jones, Dr. R. B. Osgood and Dr. Alfred Worcester. The consulting editors had little or nothing to do with the management of the *Journal* and in 1919 it appeared that the advisory committee had had no meeting for two years. The editor for the society was consulted with regard to the papers read before the society and published in the *Journal*; obituaries of fellows were published as written, though tardily; the directory, though dated January first, was published as a supplement to the *Journal*, generally at the end of April; reprints of the Proceedings of Council and Society were furnished by the *Journal* free of cost for the use of the officers; the *Journal* changed its practice of giving newspaper attention, i.e., one proof or no proof to the papers of the society and furnished both galley and page proof as in the case of book printing, a practice which had obtained before the affiliation. Occasionally reports of the district society meetings were forwarded to the society editor; notices of meetings of these societies came to hand with irregularity notwithstanding repeated requests to send them in; when they came they were often too late for publication. News items were scarce. No attempt was made, apparently, to form an editorial policy for the *Journal*. The editor, a graduate of Harvard College in 1902 with the rank of *summa cum laude* in English, a skilful writer, managed the paper much as it had been carried on in the past fifty years, and by his grandfather, John





Ware, in 1828, that is, with an office force of two clerks and for part of the time a manager, who looked after the advertisements and business matters. The editor, a man with many engagements, spent an hour a day in the office, arranging the layout for several months ahead and leaving the actual planning of each number of the *Journal* to the publisher.

Being an independent medical journal it was not to be supposed that it would be controlled by the Massachusetts Medical Society. Dr. Goldthwait had the ambition to join with the *Journal* all the medical journals of New England and to this end carried on propaganda and visited the neighboring states. He was not successful and finally resigned from the ownership with Hugh Williams. Meanwhile the paper eked out an existence, though on the verge of financial collapse during the Great War, when papers by medical men were few and subscriptions hard to get. At one time legal papers had been drawn up to close its affairs. The amount paid to the *Journal* by the society, \$3. per subscription, was not enough to cover the cost, at that time \$4.50 per subscription, and an attempt was made to get more money from the society through the committee on membership and finance.

The matter came to a head at the council meeting, June 8, 1920, when Dr. W. P. Bowers introduced and the council passed the following preamble and vote:

"Whereas, It is believed that the Massachusetts Medical Society should own an official organ for the purpose of publishing its transactions and promoting interchange of opinions and the maintenance of medical literature, it is hereby Voted, That a committee of nine members of this Society be elected with full powers to represent and act for the Massachusetts Medical Society, for the purpose of entering into negotiations with the owners of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for the purchase of the said Journal, if the terms and conditions which may be submitted by the said owners meet the approval of this committee. And further, if the purchase of the said Journal shall be consummated that this committee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to employ agents, make contracts and all other arrangements which may be deemed necessary by said committee in maintaining a medical journal."

The manner of electing the committee and a provision providing for a report at the next meeting of the council was provided for by other clauses of the vote. In this manner came to fruition the many suggestions to publish an official organ, beginning with the vote of the society of June 5, 1811 to refer to the council "a proposition for the publication in the name of the Society of a periodical journal of medicine."

The *Journal* was reorganized in April, 1921 with Dr. Walter P. Bowers as managing editor, Dr. George G. Smith, assistant editor, and the following editorial staff:

Dr. David L. Edsall, Dr. Walter B. Cannon, Dr. Robert W. Lovett, Dr. Edward H. Nichols, Dr. Francis W. Peabody, Dr. John P. Sutherland, Dr. S. Burt Wolbach and Dr. George R. Minot. The committee of nine which had the entire management of the *Journal* was made up of the following fellows of the society: Dr. Homer Gage, Chairman, Dr. J. S. Stone, Dr. H. D. Arnold, Dr. Channing Frothingham, Dr. E. C. Streeter, Dr. E. W. Taylor, Dr. W. H. Robey, Jr., Dr. R. I. Lee and Dr. R. B. Osgood.

Permission to publish a journal was obtained from the legislature by a special act, signed by the governor in March, 1921. The printing and publishing was done, as before the affiliation, by Mr. Ransom D. Pratt, president of the Jamaica Printing Company of Boston, a lifelong printer and a descendant of printers, as had been Mr. John C. Clapp of the firm of David Clapp & Son, printers for the society for fifty years. How much the *Journal* owes to its publisher is known only to those who are behind the scenes.

Since the reorganization the weekly has been vastly improved. News from the various parts of the state and from all over the world is constantly found in its columns; it has become a true society newspaper; the setting forth of legislative matters is most full — a helpful feature in increasing knowledge of medical legislation among the profession at large; the columns are open to correspondence from anyone who has ideas to put forth, therefore the fellows feel that at last they have a direct interest in the organ of the society; the papers read at the annual meetings are published without curtailment and with all the illustrations that are needed; the book reviewing goes on as before and also the abstracting of current literature; the annual directory appears as a supplement and in the columns of the *Journal* are frequent lists of membership changes; many of the programs of the district society meetings are published and every number contains the names and addresses of the officers of the society, the date and place of the next annual meeting, the names of all the officers of the eighteen district societies together with the personnel of the standing committees of the parent society.

All are familiar with the monthly journals of the state medical societies. They are of uneven merit but publish the papers read before the societies, announce the deaths and marriages of the



members, print the names and addresses of the officers and standing committees and whatever news can be gathered from about the state without the expenditure of money. A weekly journal is necessarily a proposition requiring a greater expense than a monthly. Most of the state medical journals have a subscription price of from two to three dollars. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* costs six dollars, and this is the present subscription price of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

To meet the cost of the *Journal* to the society the annual dues were raised from five dollars, an amount that had prevailed since 1867, to six dollars in 1919, remaining at that figure until 1921, when they were raised to ten dollars. In the last named year the non-resident fellows, about two hundred and twenty in number, had their assessment fixed at six dollars. Aside from the many features that are of interest in a weekly medical journal, such as the news of the day relating to all that concerns medicine, editorials on medical topics of immediate interest, and reports of progress in different departments of medicine, the society provides adequate obituaries of all its fellows, publishes the annual discourse, the Shattuck lecture, about twenty-five papers that are read at the annual meeting before the society itself and in the five sections, with carefully edited discussions, an annual directory of the officers and fellows, notices of the meetings of the council and district medical societies, news from the districts and announcements. Glancing at the treasurer's report for the year 1921 we note that the *Journal* cost the society in that year \$16,500. According to the report of the certified public accountant, published in the Proceedings of the Council for February 1, 1922, we read that the total cost of the *Journal* for nine months ending December 31, 1921, the first nine months after the society had purchased it, was \$30,747.08.

The revenue during this nine months was...	\$21,129.84
making a net loss of.....	\$9,617.24

This was met by the society. Certainly it is a good showing for a weekly medical journal and does much credit to the management. On account of the favorable situation of the funds in the treasury the October meeting of the council in 1922 has reduced the annual assessment to nine dollars, for the year 1923.

The success of the *Journal* is due in large measure to the labor and devotion of its managing editor, Dr. W. P. Bowers, who devotes a large share of his time to making it what it is.



## CHAPTER XII

### FINANCIAL

THE society began its career with annual dues fixed at two dollars and an initiation fee of the same amount, as recorded in a vote of the council of September 4, 1782. In the latter part of the decadent period of the society's history, namely, from 1790 to the reorganization in 1803, there were times when the dues were not collected. From 1801 to 1807 the assessments were one dollar a year, then for three years two dollars again; for the long period from 1810 to 1851 they were three dollars, and again the same amount from 1854 to 1867; in the interim, i.e., in 1852 and 1853, going back to two dollars. Five dollars became the amount of the annual assessment in the year 1867 and remained at this figure until 1919, fifty-two years, when it was advanced to six dollars. There it remained for two years, to be made ten dollars in 1921 in order that the society might take over the weekly *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

By the legislative act of 1781 the society was authorized to hold estate, real or personal, provided that the entire annual income from the real estate should not exceed the sum of two hundred pounds and the annual income or interest of the personal estate should not exceed the sum of six hundred pounds, a total roughly of £800 or at recent values \$4000. This provision remained as in the original act and attention was called to it at a meeting of the council on February 2, 1921, by the chairman of the standing committee on membership and finance. In an opinion of counsel E. P. Saltonstall, given September 14, 1921 to a committee of the society, appointed by vote, June 14, 1922, it appears that this provision of the original charter has been superseded by Chapter 209, of the Acts of 1915 and by Chapter 45, of the Acts of 1917, whereby the society is now governed by Chapter 180, Section 9, of the "General Laws of Massachusetts, 1921" and may hold property to the amount of two million dollars, in common with other charitable corporations.

According to the original by-laws, as adopted April 17, 1782 and written in the Statute Book, the treasurer was to give security for the trust reposed in him, was to receive "officially all monies or sums of money due or payable, and all bequests and donations," with the advice of the president and council. He was to "have power to make conclusive bargains for real or personal estate for the benefit of the Society" and to rent the same. Furthermore

"the treasurer shall pay such sums of money out of the treasury as he shall have orders for pursuant to the directions of the society, and shall make no disbursements otherwise and shall keep a particular account of such orders, receipts and payments."

His accounts were to be audited at least once a year by a committee and laid before the society and when adjusted should be "lodged with the recording secretary." In the beginning there was a "vice-treasurer" who assumed the duties of the treasurer in case of death, resignation or removal. The office was combined with that of librarian at the third meeting of the society in 1782 and Aaron Dexter was elected to fill it.

Here is the report of the first auditing committee as preserved in the files of the society:

"The committee appointed by the Massachusetts Medical Society on the 9th April 1783 to audit the Accounts of their Treasurer beg leave to report that they have attended that service & that it appears that the Treasurer has received of sundry members of said Society for the purpose of discharging the Debts of the Society the sum of fifteen pounds & sixteen shillings & that he has rec<sup>d</sup> no other monies of the Society's. That the Amount of the Accounts exhibited against said Society is the sum of twenty nine pounds eleven shillings & sixpence. That the Treasurer has paid in part of the Discharge of these Accounts against the Society the sum of twelve pounds & fourteen shillings & two pence. That the outstanding undischarged Debts of the Society amount to fifteen pounds & seventeen shillings & four pence and that there remains in the Treasurer's hands the sum of three pounds one shilling and ten pence. Further your committee find not.

(Signed:)

W<sup>m</sup> Kneeland, Simon Tufts, Benjamin Curtis."

In accordance with this report it was voted, June 4, 1783: "That the treasurer be discharged the sum of twelve pounds, fourteen shillings & /2<sup>d</sup> paid by him to several persons & that he is accountable for balance in hand of three pounds, one shilling & ten pence."

At this time the auditing committee consisted of three, not more than one member of the council being included in the committee.

The first budget is found in the report of the auditing committee dated June 2, 1784, as follows:

"That outstanding Debits of members of this society, on account of the annual payment for the benefit of the society, required of each member amounts to thirteen pounds & four shillings, that the annual payment for this year ought to amount to twenty one pounds & twelve shillings.

(Signed:)

W<sup>m</sup> Kneeland, Simon Tufts."

At the end of Treasurer Thomas Welsh's report, dated June 7, 1786, is this statement showing the amount of the annual dues at that time:

"Besides the above sum of thirty five Pounds four shillings there becomes due the first Wednesday of June, 1786, twelve shillings from each Fellow of the Society."

From this it is evident that the annual dues had been advanced from two dollars to three dollars, in 1786.

Two years later a penalty was imposed for non-attendance by this resolution:

"That if any Fellow of this Society residing within ten miles of the Town of Boston, shall hereafter neglect to attend at the opening of the several stated meetings, without having previously informed the Rec<sup>d</sup>. Sec<sup>y</sup>. of his inability to attend such meeting, he shall forfeit & pay to the Treasurer of this Society, for their use, the sum of four shillings LM.<sup>o</sup> for every such neglect, unless he shall give a sufficient excuse at the next stated meeting."

In addition it was provided that should a Fellow residing in Massachusetts absent himself from the annual meeting in June he was to pay six shillings. In those puritanical days members of societies must be real active members or pay a penalty. What a contrast with the present when a "Who's Who" may have a page of societies appended to a man's biography, the number being limited only by the length of his purse.

As regards the fees paid by "Licentiates" we have this vote passed by the council, October 4, 1782:

"That it be recommended to the Society to pass a Resolve—That a certain sum be paid by approved candidates upon their receiving letters testimonial under the seal of the Society. Voted, That \$8. be the sum mentioned in the last vote. Voted, To recommend—That the money arising from the last vote be paid into the treasury for the use of the Society."

Accordingly the society passed the following vote, April 9, 1783:

"That a certain sum be paid by all those candidates for practice, who, after having passed the examination of the Censors & been approved, shall receive



Letters Testimonial under the seal of the Society. Voted, That eight Spanish milled dollars be the sum mentioned in the last vote & that it be paid into the treasury for the use of the Society."

The treasurer was bonded from the first as is attested by the fact that a committee of two was appointed to draw up a form for the treasurer's bond at the meeting of the council on October 4, 1782.

#### FORM OF TREASURER'S BOND

*(Preserved in the files)*

"Know all men by these presents That we T.W. (Thomas Welsh) of the Town of ..... County of ..... & commonwealth of Massachusetts Gentlemen are held and firmly bound to the President & Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society in the full and just sum of ..... to be paid to the said President & Fellows of said Massachusetts Medical Society for which payment well & truly to be made we bind ourselves, Heirs, Executors & administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals dated .....

The Condition of this obligation is such that of the above bound T. W. (Thomas Welsh) shall do & faithfully perform the duties of a Treasurer of the s<sup>d</sup> Massachusetts Medical Society so long as he sustains that office then this obligation to be void, or else to be & remain in full force and virtue sealed and delivered in presence of us."

As early as 1786 "the President was requested to call upon the Treasurer to make a statement of the annual payments by law to be made by each Fellow on the first Wednesday in June and to lay the same before the Society." In 1792 the treasurer was asked to lay before the society the state of the treasury and any information he had respecting the sales of the first number of the medical papers. This has reference to the first volume of the "Medical Communications" which appeared in 1790. In Dr. Thomas Welsh's treasurer's report for June 1, 1792 is this item: "Rec<sup>d</sup>. for books sold, June, 1791 1. 9. 0." By his report for the year 1790 it appears that he paid Thomas and Andrews 33 pounds, 6 shillings and 8 pence for printing the "first number." This is such an important matter that it seems to be worth while to reproduce here the terms of the agreement for printing five hundred copies of the first volume of the Medical Communications, executed in March, 1790:

#### CONTRACT WITH THOMAS AND ANDREWS

"Memorandum of an Agreement made this thirteenth day of March, between (Dr. Thomas Welsh and Dr. Nathaniel Walker Appleton) a Committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society, on the one part, and Isaiah Thomas and Ebenezer T. Andrews, Printers, on the other part, viz.

Said Thomas and Andrews hereby engage to print for said Committee, 500 copies of a work entitled: "Medical Papers, &c." to find the paper, which is to be of a good quality, and execute the work in the following manner; the text on a pica type, scabboarded \*; the Notes or Appendix on Burgeois, scabboarded; the size of the page to be demi octavo; the work to be in every respect well executed. — Said Thomas and Andrews also engage to have 300 of said books stitched in blue paper, without any additional expense to the Committee. — Payment for said work to be made at the rate of two pence for each sheet, in the following manner, viz. Thirty Pounds on the delivery of said 500 books (300 stitched in blue paper, and 200 in sheets) and the remaining sum (which, supposing the work to make eight sheets, as is intended, will be Three Pounds Six Shillings and Eight Pence) on or before the 20th day of June next. — Said work to be immediately put to press and executed within five weeks from the date hereof.

In testimony whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands, the day and year aforesaid."

This book of one hundred and twenty-eight pages consisted of a preface, act of incorporation, list of fellows, honorary members, officers, twelve papers by fellows and an appendix of six articles by Benjamin Rush and foreign authors as described in the chapter on Publications. It was to be sold at a price of not less than two shillings six pence.

In glancing over the treasurer's reports we note that dollars are used first in place of pounds in the report for the year 1803, although not all of the reports for the years immediately preceding have been preserved.

Whenever a new treasurer was chosen a committee was appointed to examine the late treasurer's accounts, to receive from him all property, books and papers belonging to his office and transmit them to the new treasurer. This was done June 5, 1806 when Thomas Kast resigned and James Jackson was elected. The state of the securities at that time is shown by this document from the files:

"Boston, June 13, 1806. Received of Doctor Thomas Kast, late Treasurer of the Massachusetts Medical Society the following, viz; one United States Certificate for six hundred dollars in the three per cent stock of the United States — one United States Certificate for one hundred dollars in the eight per cent stock of the United States, one note of hand from Thomas Kast dated June 4, 1800, on which there are now due fifty-five dollars and seven cents. — The whole being the property of the Massachusetts Medical Society. This receipt is a duplicate — being of the same tenor and date with one given to Doctor Thomas Kast.

(Signed) James Jackson, Treasurer of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

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\* i.e., spaced or justified with scale-boards. Term now obsolete.

As showing the way in which expenditures were made at that time this vote, passed at the meeting of June 5, 1806, is submitted:

"*Voted*, That the president be directed to draw an order for fifty dollars on the treasurer, in favor of the committee on the Pharmacopoeia for the purpose of procuring books &c. and that the same be accounted for to the Counsellors, by that committee."

The Permanent Fund had its beginning in the following extract from the records of the society, June 3, 1807:

"*Voted*, That a petition be presented to the Legislature of this Commonwealth for the grant of a township of land, for the purpose of procuring the necessary accommodations for the Massachusetts Medical Society (i.e. a building or meeting place), and for promoting the important objects of their institution, as expressed in the Act of Incorporation."

The further history of the fund is found in the votes which follow:  
Records of the council, February 4, 1808:

"The committee for making an application to the Legislature for the grant of a township of land reported, That a resolve to that effect had passed the hon: Senate, & was in the House of Representatives, & that their attention to this business had not been remitted."

Records of the society, annual meeting, June 6, 1810:

"The committee appointed to petition the Legislature for a township of land reported the following Resolve, which was ordered to be recorded: The Committee of the House of Representatives on petition of the Massachusetts Medical Society, have attended to the duties assigned them & ask leave to submit as their report the following resolve; *Whereas* the Mass. Med. Society have incurred expences & have devoted a considerable portion of their time to the promotion of the laudable objects of their institution, and have petitioned this Legislature for some pecuniary aid, to enable them to erect a suitable building in the town of Boston, for the use of said Society, *Wherefore*, be it *Resolved* that there be and there hereby is appropriated for the use & benefit of the Mass. Med. Socy. one township of land to contain six miles square to be surveyed, located & assigned from any of the unappropriated lands belonging to the Commonwealth in the District of Maine, except<sup>s</sup>. the township lately purchased of the Indians and the lands contracted for by Jackson & Flint, under the direction of the agents for the sale of Eastern lands, at the expence of said Society, provided said location be made within three years, a plan whereof to be lodged in the land office, and the agents aforesaid are hereby authorized to give good and sufficient deed or deeds of the same to the trustees of said Society, or their assigns, subject to the usual reservations and conditions of settlement." "In the House of Representatives Feb. 5th, 1810. Read and passed. In Senate, concurred, &c."

"*Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be given to the committee on this petition. *Voted*, That the Treasurer be authorized to dispose of the township of Eastern land, under the direction of the Counsellors."



At the annual meeting in 1811 resolutions were passed reciting that the medical school of Harvard University had moved from Cambridge to Boston, that a union of the Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Medical Society in one building in Boston was to be desired, and resolving that funds raised from the sale of the township of land in Maine be appropriated

"to the purpose of erecting or procuring a building in some suitable place in the town of Boston for the accommodation of said Society; and if sufficient additional funds can be raised, it would be convenient that the building erected or purchased should be such as that the Society may for a reasonable compensation accommodate the professors of the medical institution of Harvard University."

It is to be borne in mind that Harvard Medical School had been moved to White's Building at 49 Marlborough Street, Boston (later No. 400 Washington Street) in December, 1810 and that the new building in Mason Street, afterwards occupied by the Boston School Committee, was not ready until 1816.

By 1813 the question had arisen whether the society could alienate the township of land granted by the General Court for the erection of a suitable building for the society's meetings, as suggested. The minutes of the annual meeting of that year say in part: "A long debate took place by which it appeared that the sense of the Society was that such alienation would be a violation of the terms on which that property was granted to the Society." After reading the foregoing resolve of the Legislature it is difficult to see, at this distance, why there should have been any doubt about the proposed sale of the township. The matter was crystallized at length in 1823, when, at the annual meeting, June 4, it was voted:

"That this society deem it expedient that the counsellors proceed forthwith to sell the lands granted to this society by the Commonwealth, which are situated in the State of Maine & that the proceeds of the sale with the annual interest thereof be reserved as a fund, subject to the order of the Society."

It is to be noted here that the State of Maine had been set off from Massachusetts as a separate state in 1820. The council record of the October meeting in 1823 shows that the township in Maine was sold to H. W. Fuller for \$3000. Six hundred dollars were paid in cash and Fuller gave four promissory notes for \$600 each, payable in two, four, six and eight years respectively, with interest annually, likewise a mortgage on said township as security.







10



The treasurer's report for the year 1827 has this to say as to the Permanent Fund: "The following is the state of the Permanent Fund up to May 15th, 1827:

"Balance of last year invested in 5 per cent Bank Notes	\$1436.78
"One year's interest on the same at 5 per cent	71.83
"Two years' interest on \$1800 pd. by H. W. Fuller Jy 30,	
1826	226.00
"9 1/2 months' interest on last named sum at 5 per cent	8.55
"Amount due from H. W. Fuller secured by his notes on	
interest and mortgage on township of land	1800.00
	<hr/>
	\$3533.16"

Without following the handling of the Permanent Fund through the subsequent years it is necessary to call attention to the following vote of the council, June 5, 1828, which was rescinded nearly a hundred years later, namely, at a meeting of the council on February 2, 1921:

"*Voted*, That the Treasurer be directed to pay to the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in trust for the Massachusetts Medical Society, all monies which he may now hold, or may hereafter receive, belonging to the permanent fund of said society; the same to accumulate at compound interest, and to be subject to withdrawal at the most frequent periods allowed by the rules of said company, upon a regularly certified vote of the Counsellors of said society."

When this vote was rescinded the annuity policy in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company stood on the books of the society as valued at \$11,253.30, the sum at which it had remained since 1855, and the permanent fund totaled \$23,371.01.

In 1849 the fund had been \$10,717.43 and a vote was passed authorizing the treasurer, with the consent of the president, to draw out the income annually. By the treasurer's report for the year 1900 the permanent fund was \$14,327.78. In 1908 it was \$18,327.78. By vote of the council February 7, 1917 it was augmented by the sum of \$5000 from the balance in the treasury at the close of the year 1916. Finally, at the council meeting of October 4, 1922 the treasurer was authorized to add to the permanent fund whatever of the balance remained in the treasury at the close of the financial year, December 31, 1922, up to a total of \$10,000. On the last date the fund amounted to \$33,774.71.

In the year 1814 the society was in debt, the councilors had recommended that an extra assessment be laid on each of the fellows for the purpose of defraying the indebtedness. Accordingly



the treasurer was "authorized and directed to hire for the use of the Society a sum of money not exceeding \$600 on the best terms that can be obtained." A committee was appointed, one of the members being the treasurer, to settle the accounts of all delinquent fellows, "to remit the whole or such parts of the assessments due as in their judgment may seem necessary" and to report. One of two form letters was sent out, the first calling attention to a vote dated June 2, 1808, reciting that "whenever any Fellow of the Society shall have neglected to pay his assessments for three years in succession, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to give notice to the same by letter" and to report to the council. The other form letter called the delinquent's attention to the fact that he had been notified by letter, that he must pay within a year or "it will be the duty of the Treasurer to adopt such methods to procure payment of the same as are prescribed by law." This committee reported the next year that they had attended to their duty, they had remitted the dues of those whose finances seemed to require it and that many delinquents had paid up.

Three years later there was a debt of \$500. Thomas Welsh, James Jackson and J. G. Coffin, all ex-treasurers, were appointed a committee to audit the accounts and to devise some "eligible mode of enabling the society to pay this debt." These extracts show the financial status in 1817:

"The ordinary & necessary expenses of the year may be estimated at 420 dollars. The only property of ye society, exclusively of their library & furniture, consists in a township of land, and their only income is derived from the annual assessments on ye fellows of ye society, and the fees paid by licentiates." "As the revenue of ye society will probably exceed their expenses by ye sum of 180 dollars a year, a reliance may be placed on this excess ultimately to pay their debts"

probably in about three years. In this event the society could incur no unusual expenses and would be embarrassed, therefore the committee recommended that the township of land be sold. To relieve the present embarrassment the committee advised that "each fellow, to whom it may be convenient, [be asked] to lend or advance a small sum to ye society without interest." Any sums paid in were to be in the nature of advance payment of assessments and no dues should be collected from those making such payments until the sum subscribed had been exhausted. Following the suggestion a vote was passed directing the treasurer to advertise for sale the land in Maine "provided it be not sold under the sum of



five thousand dollars." Although the land was not sold until later, as we have seen, the society was out of debt in 1818 and had a balance on hand of \$229. A committee of the council inquired into the state of the township and reported that they found it comprised two tracts of 20,000 and 3,000 acres respectively, situated in two townships in Range No. 9, on Wilson's Stream; it was adapted to farming, well watered and the road laid out to Quebec was about sixteen miles westerly. This report was in 1821. The sale was consummated in 1823.

The somewhat quaint report of the treasurer of the society for the year 1818 is of interest from several points of view. Copied from the original manuscript, signed as well as written by John G. Coffin, it is as follows:

## TREASURER'S REPORT, 1818

Boston, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1818.

"The subscriber, having been honored with the office of treasurer of the Mass. Med. Society, for the last seven years, presumes that some exposition of the present state of the finances of the society may be acceptable to the fellows now assembled. He accordingly respectfully submits the following summary Report and remarks:

At the last annual meeting of the society there was in the hands of the treasurer	Dol.	129.00
He has collected during the last year		845.00
		<hr/>
making together the sum of		974.00
With this money the treasurer has been enabled to de- fray the ordinary expenses of the year, amounting to		420.00
and to pay for borrowed money and interest the sum of		325.00
		<hr/>
making together the sum of		745.00
This leaves a balance of cash in his hands, belonging to the society, of		229.00

This is the first time, for five years, that the society have been out of debt. The subscriber has found, from experience, that the measures prescribed by the Counsellors, for the collection of the yearly assessments, are of great value. Agreeably to this system not more than 18 dols. will ever be due from any delinquent member at one time, whereas he has received 51 dols. from an individual at one payment. Gentlemen coming to the annual meeting, from various and distant parts of the Commonwealth, would render a very acceptable service to the treasurer and the society, by handing to the former, a memorandum of the death of any fellow of the society within their knowledge, with the date of the event, and whether or not the deceased died insolvent. This information, seasonably communicated, would save money to the society, now usually lost; I mean the balances due to the society from individuals at

the time of their death. This information would also relieve the treasurer from the unprofitable labour, which the subscriber has in several instances performed for years in succession, of charging assessments, and writing dunning letters to dead men.

During the last seven years, we all recollect, much counterfeit and uncurrent Bank money has been in circulation; from this cause no loss has been sustained by the society worth mentioning, except in taking one ten dollar bill of the old Northampton Bank, which, through the agency of a friend, was ultimately passed to the proprietors or agents of this bank, for eight dollars.

At a moment when the subscriber was too busily occupied to detect a fraud, and when placed in circumstances which did not lead him to suspect that one could be attempted, some individual, as he believes designedly, passed this imposition on him and on the society. A development of the fact at this time, may perhaps prevent a similar occurrence, if a like attempt should ever again be made.

John G. Coffin "

The comments of the succeeding treasurer, John Gorham, in his report for the year 1823, summarizing the five years of his treasurer-ship, throw much light on the financial situation of the day. He wrote in his report dated June 1, 1823:

"The income of the Society is derived from the annual assessments, and from the fees from Licentiates. For the past five years the average income from the assessments has been annually \$530.; and from the latter source \$40.; so that the whole income may be stated at \$570.

The expenses for the last year for printing have been unusually heavy; and as frequent & even urgent calls were made on the treasury, the bills for such printing were paid; and for that purpose, it was necessary not only to postpone the payment for rent of room at the Mass. Med. College, which was due in July 1822, but even to borrow a sum amounting to \$126. bearing interest, & payable in instalments of 3, 6 and 9 months. The money now in the treasury has been received since the note was given. I have made all the exertions permitted by the Society to collect the outstanding debts. In the course of 4 years one hundred and five letters of the *first form* and eighteen of the *second form* have been sent to delinquent members; and nine accounts have been consigned to legal collectors. A considerable proportion of these accounts has been settled.

There are now in the treasury nominally \$81.11, but of these five are in bills, which are either counterfeit or of bankrupt institutions. These bills have been in the treasury, so far as I know, from time immemorial. I would suggest to the Council the expediency of destroying them.

In July next \$200 dollars will be owing the President and Fellows of Harvard College for rent of room for two years — at the same time an instalment on the note for \$126. above mentioned will be required; and the Society in course of the present year will have to pay about \$330. for debts already contracted. Now as the annual income of the Society may be estimated at \$570. there will remain a sum but barely sufficient to pay for the annual dinner, and the small debts for advertising in the newspapers. There can be no fund for printing the





dissertation or even the bye-laws, unless the Councillors see fit to anticipate the revenue of the succeeding year. The expense of the annual dinner predicated upon an average of five years, is \$279; but it is pleasing to remark that the bill has been lessening every year, and that the account of the last year was \$97 less than that of 1819.

Should the Council see proper to sell the township of eastern land, an opportunity will occur at the next sale of lands belonging to Massachusetts, & situated in Maine; the money so obtained might be put at interest so as to constitute a permanent fund for the purposes of the Society.

All which is respectfully submitted

John Gorham, *Treasurer*, M.M.S."

Boston, June 1, 1823.

Delinquent fellows were again a trouble to the society in 1829 and a committee advised petitioning the Legislature for an act by which the society might be authorized to collect dues "in an action of debt," declaring therein generally against the defendant as being indebted to the society for his annual assessment. The petition was made and granted by the Legislature in an act passed March 19, 1831. (See Article IX of the Digest of the society.) It was in this year that fellows began to pay their annual assessments directly to the treasurers of the district societies instead of to the treasurer of the parent society, the by-laws having been amended to this effect after the question had been referred to a committee composed of two members from each of the ten districts into which, at that time, the society was divided. The final report of Treasurer Walter Channing, in 1840, at the end of twelve years of service as treasurer, shows a system of collecting the annual dues that involved the employment of a collecting agent for the state at large, one for the Suffolk district and another for Berkshire. The agents gathered not only the dues of the fellows but information as well concerning deaths and removals, an important factor even in present days when the society has the use of the telephone directories throughout the state, the changes of address sent to the official publication and spasmodic assistance from old and tried secretaries and treasurers of the district societies. Channing thought highly of the services of the paid agents and said that the "Advisory Committee of the Treasurer" held the same view.

Apparently the first salary voted to an officer of the society was that embodied in the vote of the society of May 28, 1845 which defined the duties of the treasurer and went on to say: "He shall receive a salary of one hundred dollars a year, in lieu of compensation for clerk hire, and the ordinary expenses of collecting

assessments." Dr. A. A. Gould was treasurer at this time. The treasurer's salary was advanced to \$300 in 1856, to \$400 in 1875, and to \$500 in 1891, a figure at which it has remained since. Considering that the treasurer needs the services of a paid secretary to conduct the increasing business of his office this stipend does not appear to be adequate at the present time.

The secretary first received a salary in 1881 when he was voted the sum of \$250 yearly. This was increased to \$300 in 1891, to \$500 in 1897, to \$800 in 1909 and to \$1100 in 1921. The last increase of three hundred dollars represented the separate salary of that amount which had been paid the single editor of the publications of the society for the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, since 1916. In 1922 the librarian was retired and his duties assumed by the secretary. The librarian's salary of \$400 was added to the secretary's salary at the same time, so that at the present it is \$1500. In 1891 the librarian was voted a salary of \$200; it was raised to \$400 in 1898, on the condition that he should assist the secretary in his multifarious duties, and has remained at that sum being still the salary of the "Librarian Emeritus," a position created in February, 1922.

It is to be borne in mind that the growth of the society, both in the number of its fellows and in the scope of its activities, has increased the amount of work required of its officers. While in the past a man might be engaged in active practice and hold office in the society as an employment of minor importance, such a relation is no longer possible. The officers are obliged to give a major part of their time to the duties of their office; especially is this the case with the secretary, in a lesser degree with the treasurer. In the case of the president he holds office for a relatively brief period; as he is generally at a time of life when he has at least partially retired from active practice, he can devote a good share of his time to fulfilling his obligations to the society.

In the year 1851 the society had expelled Dr. Ira Barrows of Pawtucket, R. I. (See Chapter on Police Duty and Discipline.) Barrows had brought suit for libel against the committee which had preferred the charges against him, namely, Dr. D. H. Storer and Dr. Benoni Carpenter. The society undertook to pay the legal expenses incurred for the defence of the suits against these fellows in the following vote: "That the treasurer be authorized and directed to pay any drafts made by the committee appointed to





defend certain suits and legal proceedings commenced against individual members in consequence of the corporate acts of the society or the society itself." A similar vote was passed at a special meeting of the society, held April 21, 1852, on motion by Dr. Luther V. Bell in the libel case against him filed by Dr. Calvin Newton of Worcester, against whom charges had been brought for alleged unprofessional conduct. The society voted to pay the legal expenses of Dr. Bell. It may be stated here that the Barrows's suit cost the society \$1940.71, also that in 1860 the sum of \$600, the amount usually appropriated at that time for the annual dinner, was devoted to paying the debts caused by all of the above suits.

The subject of the "reversions" or dividends to the district societies is one of interest at this point. The practice of making a return to the districts had begun in 1832 when the districts were allowed to retain one third of the amount collected by their district treasurers provided that amount was used for the purchase of books for the district library. In 1837 this third could be retained without any restrictions as to its use. At an adjourned meeting of the society, May 26, 1853, it was voted that every fellow be assessed annually three dollars, one dollar of which was to revert to the society of the district in which he resided. The treasurer of the society was to pay such so-called reversions to the several district treasurers annually before the first of January. The by-laws of 1856 changed the amount to one fourth part of every annual assessment collected, in order that more money might be available at that time for the publications. The further history of the dividends, that is, following 1878 when the financial stringency of the society had been relieved, will be traced a little later in this chapter.

The Shattuck bequest may now engage our attention. At the annual meeting in 1854, the corresponding secretary read a letter from the executors of George Cheyne Shattuck the elder (1784-1854), president of the society from 1836 to 1840, informing the society that a legacy, in value about ten thousand dollars, had been left to the society in his will. The will provided that the funds should accumulate for a period of three years and then that a third part should be paid to the Massachusetts Medical Society

"in special confidence that the said society shall carefully invest the amount which it may thus receive, and apply the net interest and income thereof from time to time, in the discretion of said society or its government, to the collection and publication, annually by some suitable person or persons, of historical or other essays on the climate of said commonwealth, on the diseases



of its inhabitants, and on such other subjects as the said society or its government may select."

The bequest of Dr. Shattuck was accepted by a formal vote and by resolutions laudatory of his past services to the society and expressing gratitude for his gift. At a special meeting of the council, March 8, 1855

"The President [George Hayward] stated that he had received from G. C. Shattuck, one of the executors and trustees under the will of the late Dr. G. C. Shattuck, deceased, a request that the Society would adopt the course taken by the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, so far as it regards their interest in the legacy bequeathed them."

After full explanation the following preamble and vote were passed unanimously:

"It being represented that the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture and the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association — which are legatees jointly with this society, under the will of the late Dr. George C. Shattuck — are disposed to enter into an arrangement with the executors of the will for the purpose of complying with his instructions therein; that the income from the corporate stocks, which he directed to be accumulated for the benefit of these legatees, should be deposited by the executors with the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, on account of them respectively, one-third part for each of them, to accumulate during the three years, as directed in the will; and that, at the expiration of that time, the share of each shall remain in deposit with said company for the term of five years, being the shortest time for which said company take deposits upon trusts: — It is therefore voted, That the Treasurer [A. A. Gould] be authorized to make such arrangements with the said societies and executors, and the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in behalf of this society, and to sign such instruments for that purpose, as he may think proper."

In the further history of the Shattuck bequest one notes that in October, 1860, as set down in the council records, Dr. G. C. Shattuck, the son, took occasion to call to the attention of the councilors that,

"on account of inadvertence, the income of the Shattuck fund had been used for purposes not contemplated by the testator or expressed in his will. This sum [about one thousand dollars] must therefore be restored to its legitimate use, and consequently would add that much to the current debt of the society."

This was during a discussion of the means of payment of the expenses incurred in defending the libel suits against Fellows Bell, Carpenter and Storer. It was at this meeting that the sum of six hundred dollars annually, the amount usually spent on the annual dinner, was appropriated for the defence of the suits.



In 1877 the council directed the committee on publications to offer prizes out of this fund for essays. The first year four essays were handed in, three of them of such merit that it was difficult to select the best. Subsequently no essays worthy of a prize were offered. Early in 1885 the council authorized the committee on publications to offer a prize of one thousand dollars, in accordance with the terms of the Shattuck bequest, for an essay that should be considered worthy, all of them to be handed in before March 1, 1888. Only three were received and none of them was deemed worthy of a prize. Therefore the following resolution was introduced at the annual meeting of the council June 12, 1888 by the chairman of the committee, Dr. G. C. Shattuck:

*"Resolved:* That the Committee on Publications be instructed to provide for a lecture, to be called the Shattuck Lecture, on some subject in accordance with what is specified in the will of the late Dr. Shattuck, the lecture to be delivered at the annual meeting of the Society, the honorarium for it and the publication of it to be defrayed from the income of the Shattuck Fund.  
*Resolved:* That the income of the Shattuck Fund not required for the expenses of the lectureship shall be used for the printing of the Medical Communications of the Society."

The resolution was adopted and a vote passed that Shattuck lecturers be not restricted to fellows of the society and that the committee on publications may select such lecturers as they see fit. The first Shattuck lecture was given at the annual meeting in 1890 by Dr. George Brune Shattuck, of Boston, a grandson of the donor of the fund, on Influenza in Massachusetts. A lecture has been given each year since by an eminent physician from at home (Massachusetts) or from some state or division of the United States or Canada, in alternate years. The honorarium of recent years has been two hundred dollars. (See Appendix for a list of lecturers and their subjects.)

At an adjourned meeting of the society, held November 7, 1860, this vote was passed:

*"That the Massachusetts Medical Society accepts the legacy of the late Hon. Jonathan Phillips, of the sum of ten thousand dollars, and hereby authorizes Dr. Augustus A. Gould, the Treasurer of the Society, to receive the same."*

Jonathan Phillips, who was born in Boston April 24, 1778 and died there July 29, 1860, was the son of Lieutenant Governor William Phillips. He had received an honorary A. M. from Harvard in 1818 and had contributed five thousand dollars to a fund for the estab-

lishment of the Summer School of the Harvard Medical School in 1858, this fund being the nucleus of the Jackson Medical Fund which was used to pay the debt incurred by the erection and maintenance of the medical school building in North Grove Street. The disposition of the unrestricted bequest is explained in this memorandum from the manuscript minutes of the society under date of May 29, 1861:

"The legacy of the late Hon. Jonathan Phillips, of \$10,000. was received in March last and by the assistance of the President [John Homans] and the advice of the finance committee [S. D. Townsend, chairman] has been advantageously invested in a first mortgage on a most eligible estate in the city, of more than double the value, at six per cent, interest payable semiannually. In the present state of the times, this must be considered a most fortunate investment." "The Society is greatly indebted to the president on this occasion, for investigating and adjusting the legal claims assumed by the Society and for his ready pecuniary aid in many other emergencies."

According to the treasurer's report for the year 1869 the Phillips fund was invested in United States five per cent bonds. Following a resolution of the council of June 10, 1879, the bonds were sold and four per cent United States bonds purchased. The resolution was this:

"*Resolved* that Frank W. Draper, Treasurer, be and is hereby authorized to sell, assign or convey all United States Bonds registered in the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society on the books of the Treasury Department, until such authority is officially revoked, and notice of revocation is properly given to the Treasury Department."

On June 8, 1897 this entry was made in the council minutes:

"On recommendation of the Committee on Membership and Finance it was *Voted*, That the Treasurer be authorized to invest the funds of the Society from time to time, as its needs and best interests shall seem to require, and in a manner approved by the Committee on Membership and Finance."

The treasurer's report for the year 1908 shows that the four per cent government bonds had been sold and three and a half per cent United States bonds purchased. The Phillips fund has been invested in these bonds since that time.

Dr. Augustus A. Gould closed services of a total of seventeen years as treasurer of the society in 1863 and Dr. Francis Minot took his place. It appeared that there was no balance in the treasury in the following February and that the society was in debt to the amount of \$3200, of which \$700 was owed to the late treasurer who had advanced that sum. Some extracts from the





final report of Treasurer Gould will throw light on the financial situation in 1863. (He had been treasurer from 1845 to 1847 and from 1848 to 1863.)

"In presenting his nineteenth report, the Treasurer desires to decline a re-election, — he would have resigned some years since, had it not been for a desire to see the treasury once more overflowing, after having been so deeply drained by the Law and by over-publication. . . . We have already liquidated \$2,811.42 with interest, of the debt incurred by the notable lawsuit, and only one thousand remains to be paid; and have reduced the balance due the Treasurer about \$1,100; and no new or extraordinary liabilities have been incurred, excepting a fee for counsel in the matter of the military draft. . . . Two circumstances have already modified, and will continue to modify our income, viz., the absence of not less than one hundred and fifty of our members in the army and navy. [At this time the total membership of the Society was about 1000]; and the tax of one per cent. on our funded capital, which reduces our income, from that source, from \$1,123 to \$1,021 per annum. . . . It is hoped that the measures recommended by the Committee on Delinquencies may help to replenish largely the treasury."

Some ten years later, June 2, 1874, the treasurer reported a deficit and explained that the debt of \$2000 was in consequence of legal expenses attending former and recent trials and of an unusual expenditure in printing the publications of 1871. He asked that the treasurer might retain annually for the term of three years for the use of the general society, the one fourth "reversion" of the assessments allowed the district societies by the rules. The secretary was requested by vote to ask the district societies if they would relinquish their reversions for three years until the debt was paid. By 1876 the society's debt had gone even though one year remained of the three years, and this vote was passed at the October meeting of the council:

"*Ordered*, That at the end of the present financial year and thenceforward, annually, there shall be set aside, as a dividend, such portion of the balance remaining in the Treasury as the Committee on Finance in consultation with the Treasurer shall determine, subject to the approval of the Councillors, at their annual meeting, — to be distributed to the several District Societies in proportion to the number of the annual assessments which shall have been paid *in advance* by the said societies respectively."

The advantages of this plan were given by Dr. F. W. Draper, the new treasurer that year, under the following five headings: "1. It follows strict financial principles in a division of the *surplus annual earnings*. 2. It provides a premium to district societies for making prompt payment of assessments in accordance with the By-Laws.

3. It is simple in its operation and is equitable to all parties concerned. 4. It makes a single annual settlement with the districts so that they will know at once whether or not they must levy a special tax for their society needs. 5. It affords an effectual safeguard against bankruptcy of the general treasury, an accident which has more than once happened under the old system."

It will be of interest to sketch the amount of the dividends to the district societies in subsequent years as showing how this plan worked out. On June 11, 1878 the committee on finance reported an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$2216.66 and it was voted to pay a dividend of 75 per cent of this to the district societies; June 11, 1889 the committee on membership and finance reported through Dr. Francis Minot, the previous treasurer, recommending that two fifths of the surplus in the treasury, amounting to \$1320.68, be distributed among the district societies. At this time there were 1765 fellows in the society. The amount distributed in 1894 was \$1900; in 1896, \$2000, and an extra dividend of \$1000; in 1898, \$3000; in 1899, \$4000; in 1903, \$4500. This was the amount of the reversion yearly until 1912 when it was \$4000. Again in 1913 the amount was \$4000. The next financial year was of eight and a half months, for the council had made the society's financial year coincide with the calendar year beginning January 1, 1914. Previous to that time it had been from April 15 to April 15. The dividend in 1914 was \$3000; in 1915 it was \$4000 and the same in 1916. In the years 1917, 1918 and 1919 it was \$2500 and in 1920 the sum of \$2000. The next year was the first of the ten-dollar annual assessment for fellows. The committee on membership and finance had estimated that there should be a balance of \$7500 in the treasury when the new increased assessments had been collected and the expenses of the year had been defrayed. Here was a chance for the district societies to come into their own, and the council voted to give them \$7000 while reserving only \$500 for the annual dinner and annual meeting. The effect of this action will be found commented on in the chapter on Recent Times.

Benjamin Eddy Cotting had been president of the society from 1874 to 1876. He felt the need of some refreshment at the meetings of the council in October and February to help insure a good attendance and to promote sociability. The Massachusetts Medical Society had been one of his chief interests in life for he had been recording secretary, corresponding secretary, orator and vice-



president before he occupied the highest office. At the annual meeting in 1876 as he was about to relinquish office he announced that a friend of the society had offered to the councilors a donation of a thousand dollars, the income from which was to be expended for "simple refreshments" to be partaken of by the councilors immediately after the adjournment of the stated meetings in October and February. The donation was accepted with applause, and later, when it became known who the donor was, the fund was styled "The Cotting Fund," although at first called the "Councilors' Fund." For the sake of record the conditions of the gift are given here:

"That there be expended under the direction of the treasurer for 'simple refreshments' (or lunch) to be partaken of by the Councillors immediately after the adjournment of the stated meeting in October, and also in February, of each and every year, an amount each time of not less than two and a half per cent on the donation (i.e. five per cent a year) — provided, however, that the Councillors may, after notice of such purpose in the call for the meeting, by an affirmative vote of at least three fourths of the Councillors present, thereafter, temporarily, employ said amount per cent for any other object deemed by them proper, or of more importance to the harmony and welfare of the profession."

At the annual meeting in 1881, the centennial year, Dr. Cotting doubled his donation with the additional condition "that the income of the present donation may be used for a 'lunch' at the Councillors' annual meeting, if in any year such a disposition thereof should seem advisable." At this time he presented as a memento a silver pitcher, to be used at the councilors' lunches, a gift to Dr. Cotting from Dr. George Hayward, an efficient secretary and president of the society, as a token of intimate friendship. Again in 1887 Dr. Cotting presented another thousand dollars to the Cotting Fund, and the fund has remained at \$3000 since, proving of great value in accomplishing the purpose of its founder. It has been only in recent years with the high cost of food and an increased number of councilors in a growing society that it became necessary to add to the income from the fund money from the general treasury to provide suitable lunches, which, by the way, are much enjoyed.

The society has received occasional gifts from various sources such as that from the executors of the will of Dr. John Clough, of Woburn, in 1880, of the sum of one hundred dollars, "to be expended in the form of prizes for three of the best papers on the



treatment of disease by moral management *versus* medicine or drugs" — the first prize being fifty dollars, the second thirty dollars, and the third twenty dollars. Dr. Isaac P. Smith, of Gloucester, a fellow of the society who died in 1862, made the Massachusetts Medical Society the residuary legatee of his will. As it was necessary for the president to have authority to sign papers even though there was not a brilliant prospect of the society receiving anything, because of the number of heirs, it was voted, at the meeting of the council December 30, 1913: "That the president be authorized to do as he sees fit in the case of the will of Isaac P. Smith, without expense to the Society."

Although there was a budget as early as 1784 no systematic attempt was made to forecast in detail the expenses of the year until 1917, when Dr. Charles M. Green, long an advocate of the modern budget plan, presented a definite budget for the current year. Dr. Green had become chairman of the standing committee on membership and finance in June, 1914, on the resignation of Dr. F. W. Goss, who was at that time moving to California. Dr. E. M. Buckingham, treasurer of the society for twenty years, died December 23, 1916. Dr. Green made a report to the council, as chairman of the committee on membership and finance, on behalf of the treasury, at the February meeting of the council, 1917, when a new treasurer was elected. The following year the new treasurer, Dr. A. K. Stone, following modern customs, employed an expert public accountant to make an annual report, with the result that the investments and the endowment funds were described with all their details for the first time in the printed proceedings. Since then they have been set forth in each report by the public accountant and a budget has been provided every year by the committee on membership and finance.

As early as 1877 the council voted to pay the mileage of its relatively new committee on ethics and discipline, the committee having been appointed in 1871. Until 1897 no formal vote was taken regarding the defraying of the expenses of the other committees, though it would seem that the usual expenses were defrayed from the treasury, mileage not being reckoned in. On February 3, 1897 the following vote was passed, and is still in force: "That the travelling and incidental expenses of the Society's general officers and of the members of the several standing committees, in the discharge of their duties, be paid from the Society's

treasury." The expenses of the accredited delegates to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association had been paid under protest by the treasurer previous to the year 1911, when Dr. H. D. Arnold interested himself in the matter and was instrumental in putting before the council, and in securing the passage of this motion:

"That hereafter those members of the Massachusetts Medical Society who attend the meetings of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association as the authorized representatives of the Massachusetts Medical Society may be reimbursed by the Treasurer of said society for their transportation and ordinary sleeping accommodations while travelling to and returning from said meetings, provided, —

1. That the delegate makes claim for such reimbursement within three months from the end of said meeting of the House of Delegates.
2. That the President approves of these expenses as reasonable.
3. That the amount paid to any one delegate shall not exceed \$100 for any one meeting, — the payment of \$100 being authorized if the delegate's expenses (as above specified) exceed that amount.
4. No expenses of the delegates other than travelling expenses thus specified shall be paid, except by special vote of the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

In February, 1923, this vote was rescinded and the council voted to pay the railway fares, food and lodging of the delegates to the House of Delegates, American Medical Association while in transit to and from the meetings. For many years it had been a practice to pay similar expenses of the delegates to the annual congresses of the National Society at Chicago.

At the meeting of the council on October 5, 1921 the council voted, on the recommendation of the committee on membership and finance, to "pay such members of standing and other committees as are willing to receive it, such mileage to be based on actual disbursement for travel to and from meetings," i.e., the meetings of said committees.

It appears that the financial affairs of the society are handled in a more ship-shape manner than ever before in the past, a happy augury at this time when the society has grown to such large proportions and its finances need more careful attention.

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE LIBRARY

THE library of the Massachusetts Medical Society was mentioned in the first by-laws, adopted April 17, 1782, when the following regulations were put into force in Chapter VII under the caption: "OF THE LIBRARIAN." Incidentally Aaron Dexter was the first librarian, his title being "Vice-treasurer and Librarian." He served from 1782 to 1792.

"Section 1. The Librarian shall have in his Custody & Charge all Books belonging to the Society, shall keep a Register of and arrange them into proper Classes, and deliver them out to the Fellows of the Society under such Regulations as shall hereafter be agreed upon." "On 18 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1786 the following rules, respecting the Loan of Books that now are or hereafter may be, in the Library of this Society, were ordered to be added to the Laws. Chap. 7, Sect. 2<sup>d</sup>.: "Section 2<sup>d</sup>. The Fellows of this Society shall be entitled to the perusal of such Books as belong to the Library of this Society, on their application to the Librarian & giving him a Receipt therefor — it. add<sup>d</sup>.

1. No Fellow shall be allowed to keep any Book out of the Library longer than three months.
2. If any Book, whilst in possession of any Fellow of this Society shall be injured or defaced, he shall completely repair it, or, if practicable replace it with a new one.
3. Any Member retaining a Book longer than the time limited above & neglecting to return it, immediately after being called upon by the Librarian; shall be deprived of the privilege of taking out any other Book for the term of twelve months next after the application aforesaid & Record thereof shall be made by the Sec<sup>y</sup>.
4. Passed 17 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 87. No Fellow be permitted to have in his possession at one time more than one Folio Volume, or two Quartos, or three of smaller size.
5. The Librarian shall cause each Book belonging to the Library to be marked on the Inside Cover with the Arms of this Society & underneath the following Words: "The property of the Mass<sup>a</sup>. Med<sup>l</sup>. Soc<sup>y</sup>." as the case may be.
6. Any Fellow making application for any Book belonging to, but not in the Library at the time of his application may leave his request in writing with the Librarian, who shall, upon the Book's being returned, loan it to the person so applying.





7. All Books belonging to the Library shall be returned on or before the 20th of May annually, & none of them shall be again loaned before the day after the annual Meeting of the Society in June and in case any Book shall not be returned by the time mentioned above, the Person holding the same shall be liable to the same Penalty as in the 3<sup>d</sup>. Article.
8. Honorary Members residing within the State shall have the same privileges respecting the Library as the Fellows, they paying to the Treasurer the sum of six-shillings LM<sup>o</sup> in the month of June annually.
9. Such sums of Money as shall be paid by the Honorary Members, together with such sums as shall generously be given by any Benefactors of the Society for the purpose & such Sums as the Society shall from time to time appropriate for the purpose shall be a fund for the maintenance, support & augmentation of the Library.  
Council
10. At the annual meeting of the ~~Society~~ for the Election of Officers, a Library Committee, consisting of five members, shall be chosen, any three of them to be a quorum, whose Business shall be to inspect the Library, as often as they shall judge necessary, to see that it be well ordered & kept in good Condition & be supplied with new Books from time to time as they shall judge proper & the Library Funds will admit — and they shall annually make report of their proceedings in writing at the  
Council  
meeting of the ~~Society~~ in June.
11. The Librarian shall from time to time as often as the Society shall judge proper, cause Catalogues of the Books in the Library to be printed at the Expence of the Society, to which Catalogues shall be subjoined such of the Rules & Orders of the Library as the Society from time to time shall direct."

The library was in existence for ninety years, — from 1782 to 1872, — when most of the books were given to the Boston Public Library. The rules just written out, from the old Charter Book, show that the society's managing officers had an eye to the important details of library management for they formulated rules that would do credit to the overseers of a modern collection of books. By the complete list of librarians from the beginning to 1922, on the next page, it will be seen that the library had twenty-four guardians during that time, and that the society has had two librarians with varied duties, since 1872. A little later we shall have something to say about those librarians who did the most to promote the interests of the collection of books which was an important feature of the Massachusetts Medical Society for many years of its existence.

## LIBRARIANS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Aaron Dexter, Vice-treasurer, librarian and cabinet keeper.....	1782-1792
William Spooner, the same title until 1794, then librarian and cabinet keeper.....	1792-1800
John Fleet, Recording secretary, librarian and cabinet keeper until 1803, then librarian.....	1800-1813
John Dixwell, Librarian.....	1813-1814
John Gorham, ".....	1814-1818
William Gamage, ".....	1818-1819
John Randall, ".....	1819-1822
Walter Channing, ".....	1822-1825
George Hayward, ".....	1825-1826
Enoch Hale, ".....	1826-1832
David Osgood, ".....	1832-1838
George Washington Otis, Librarian.....	1838-1840
Samuel Morrill, ".....	1840-1842
Winslow Lewis, ".....	1842-1843
Charles Gideon Putnam, ".....	1843-1846
Alexander Thomas, ".....	1846-1847
Martin Gay, ".....	1847-1849
Abraham Andros Watson, ".....	1849-1854
John Burroughs Alley, ".....	1854-1857
William Edward Coale, ".....	1857-1864
James Clarke White, ".....	1864-1872
David Hyslop Hayden, ".....	1872-1884
Edwin Howard Brigham, ".....	1884-1922
Edwin Howard Brigham, Librarian Emeritus.....	1922-

As early as 1783 books and pamphlets were presented to the library, for in that year the Royal Society of Medicine of Paris sent the first sheet of *Military Medicine* through John Adams, commissioner at the French court. The papers read by fellows were collected in the secretary's files, not in the library. From time to time various foreign publications on medicine were recommended by the committees on the library to be purchased and added to the books in the library, that is, the books that were thought to have the best information for the fellows. The first note as to such additions was made in 1785. On June 7, 1786 it was



"Voted, That a committee be appointed to consider what regulations may be necessary respecting the loan of such books as now are, or hereafter may be in the library of this society."

The committee consisted of "Doct<sup>rs</sup>. Warren, Kast and Danforth" and their original report is preserved on page thirty-four of the Bowditch Book. The regulations adopted have been printed at the beginning of this chapter. At the meeting of the society on October 18, 1786 Mr. John Norman of Boston, engraver, presented to the society a book he had engraved on "An Abridgement of the Practice of Midwifery and a Sett of Anatomical Tables with Explanations Collected from the Works of the Celebrated W. Smellie, M.D. A New Edition — Boston, Engraved & Printed by J. Norman near the Boston Stone." We know that the "Boston Stone" was a square stone surmounted by a round grinder once used in a paint mill brought out from England in 1700. It is still to be seen in the wall of a building on Creek Square, off Marshall Street at the North End.

The following vote as to books for the library appears in the minutes of the meeting on October 18, 1786:

"That a committee of three be elected for the purpose of making out a list of such medical books as they may think proper, to be purchased for the Library of this Society, provided the amount thereof does not exceed the sum of twenty pounds sterling."

The next year, May 2, 1787, Dr. Waterhouse presented the first part of a synopsis of a course of lectures on the theory and practice of medicine, in four parts, and the committee reported a list of books, which was accepted, the treasurer being ordered to procure the books on the best terms he could. The list is not discoverable at the present time. A vote at this same meeting directed the vice-president [Cotton Tufts] to return the thanks of the society to Doctors Rand, Jr., Jarvis, Appleton, Waterhouse, Warren and Dexter for the "several books by them respectively given this day."

The librarian, Aaron Dexter, received the additional title of "cabinet keeper" at the annual meeting in June, 1787, so that from then on during his service he was "Vice-Treasurer, Librarian and Cabinet Keeper." Although Aaron Dexter (1750-1829) is known chiefly as being a founder of the Harvard Medical School and the first professor of chemistry and materia medica in that school, it may be well to sketch here the chief biographical facts of his career. He was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, November 11,

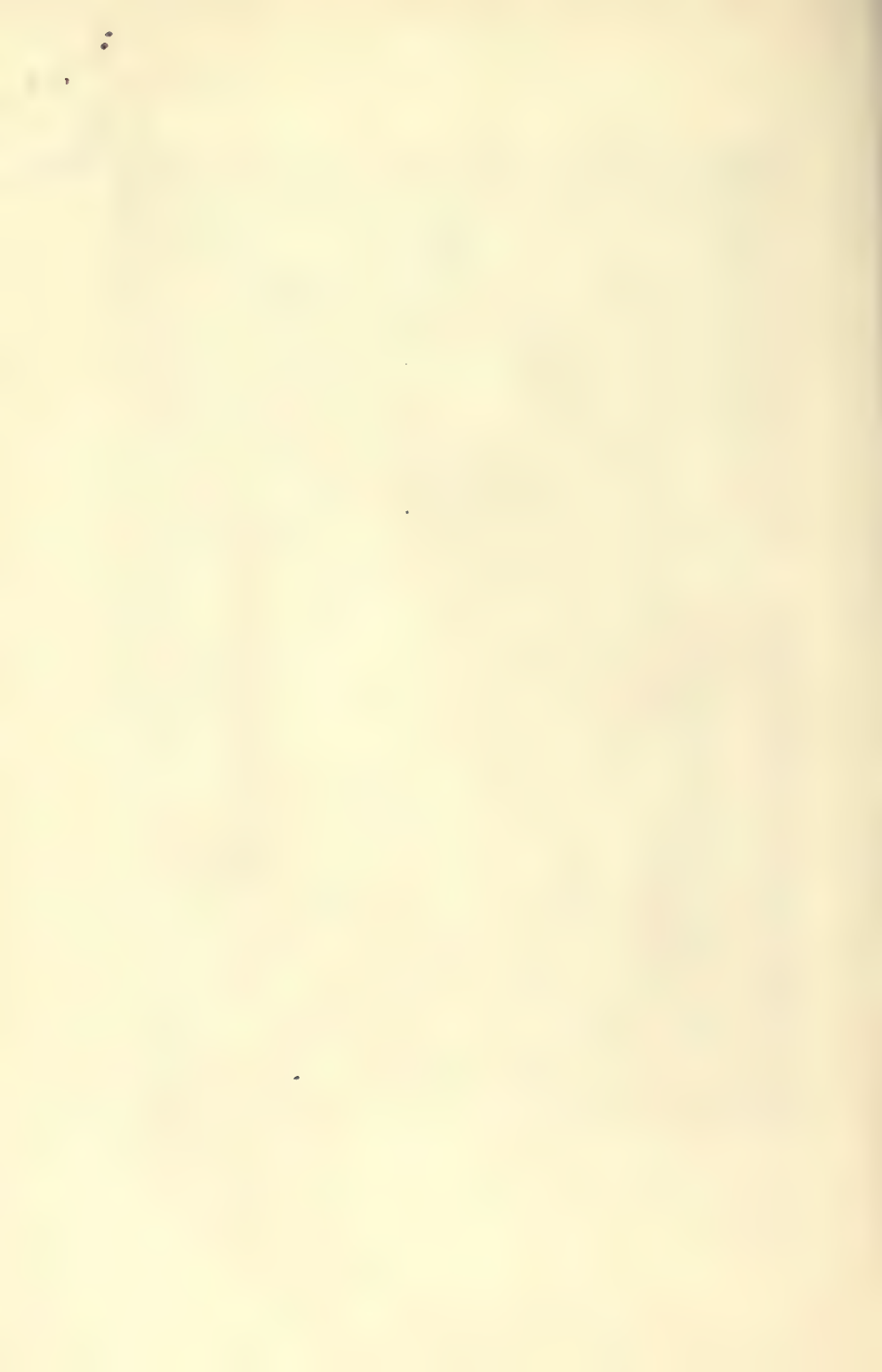


1750. Who could have forecasted that one hundred and sixty-eight years later this would be Armistice Day, following the greatest war of history? Dexter was noted for urbanity and kindness so that he came properly into the world on a day that was to signify forgiveness and peace. Entering Harvard College in 1772 he was graduated in 1776 and studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Danforth, a chemist of Boston. Toward the close of the Revolution he married Rebecca, daughter of Thomas Amory of Boston, and began practice in that town. It has been said that he made several voyages to Europe as a medical officer during the Revolution and was captured by the British, but as to this there is some doubt, for his name does not figure in the official lists of the medical men who took part in the Revolution. We know of him as one of the first five to plan for the formation of the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shortly after he had served in a like capacity for the state medical society. He held membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Harvard gave him her honorary M. D. in 1786 and in 1805 Dartmouth did the same. His professorship at Harvard was endowed by the will of Major William Erving (Harvard, 1751), a patient and friend of his, in 1791. He became emeritus professor in 1816 and died of old age at his home in Cambridge, February 28, 1829, having taught medicine for a long series of years and having helped to establish a medical school and a medical society, not to mention serving in other institutions for the public good, such as the Boston School committee, from 1789 to 1796.

In June of this year 1787 the entire council of seven members was made a committee to draw up regulations respecting the library. These are to be found in Chapter VII of the by-laws, at the beginning of this chapter. The librarian was to retain in his possession all the books of the library until further orders and the library committee was to make provision for marking the books. The first three series of regulations found in Chapter VII of the old by-laws were passed in 1782 and the remaining eight in October, 1787. At this meeting James Lloyd augmented the library with the following books: Edinburgh Medical Essays, 6 vols.; Sir John Pringle on Diseases of the Army; Observations on the Nature, Causes and Cure of Nervous Disorders &c., by Robert Whytt, M.D., F.R.S.; Sharpe's Surgery; LeDran's Observations in Surgery; Medical Observations and Enquiries by the Society of Physicians,



BOOKPLATE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY





London, 1st, 2d and 4th volumes. As I write, M. Le Dran's *Observations in Surgery* with Dr. Lloyd's autograph on the flyleaf, lies on my table. The date he wrote in the book is 1751, when he was dresser at Guy's Hospital and listening to the lectures of Hunter and Smellie. The quaint old book had gone to the Boston Public Library in 1872 but had been deposited in the Boston Medical Library in 1905 after being rebound. On the inside back cover is the bookplate of the Massachusetts Medical Society, at the bottom being: "Ex Dono Jacobi Lloyd, Bostoniae."

The title page is as follows:

*Observations in Surgery: Containing One Hundred and Fifteen Different Cases, with Particular Remarks on Each, For the Improvement of young Students. Written originally in French, By Henry-Francis le Dran, Of the Academy of Arts, Sworn Surgeon at Paris, Senior Master of that Company, eldest Surgeon and Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Hospital La Charité. Translated by J. S. Surgeon. Embellished with Copper Plates, curiously engrav'd, representing those Parts wherein the principle Cases are particularly concern'd.*

To which is added, a New Chirurgical Dictionary, for the Use of young Practitioners, and Gentlemen residing in the Country; explaining the Terms of Art contained in the Body of the Book; and likewise all such as properly belong to Physick and Surgery.

The Second Edition. LONDON, Printed for James Hodges, at the *Looking-Glass* on London Bridge. MDCCXL. Price Bound Five Shillings.

Dr. Lloyd's name is written again at the top of the title page, and on the first flyleaf is this: "Mass. Med. Society. Ex Dono Dr. Lloyd." Between pages 76 and 77 is a dusky piece of paper, even darker than the time-yellowed pages, that may have been put there by the "young practitioner" so long ago in London.

Other books presented at that October meeting in 1787 were Cowper's *Anatomy and Plates*, folio, from Dr. Edward Wyer of Cambridge and the first volume of the *Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, presented by that society; a book that was to prove a stimulus for the publishing by the Massachusetts Medical Society of the first volume of *Medical Communications* three years later.

From this time the records show a constant succession of books presented to the library. Cotton Tufts gave Boerhaave's *Academical Lectures*, 6 vols., octavo, and Dexter gave *Memoirs of the Academy of Surgery of Paris*, 3 vols., quarto, in French, in the year 1788. Next year Dr. Pecker transferred to the library seven works, including Nicolas Fontain on *Diseases of Children*, Turner's

Art of Surgery, in two volumes, and Uffenbach's Opera Chirurgica, a folio, while Dr. Holyoke sent in the works of Hippocrates, Greek and Latin, folio, and the works of Harvey in Latin, quarto.

The following is a list of the books in the library as handed down to us in a printed document addressed to "Hon; Dr. Tufts" and bearing in his handwriting this date "20 Nov. 1788." It bears the well-known signature of Nathaniel W. Appleton, the recording secretary.

"A List of the Books belonging to the Library of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY, and which are ready to be loaned to any Fellow thereof, agreeably to the Rules and Orders in that case made and provided.

*Folio*

Cowper's Anatomy, with Plates.

Hunter's Plates of the Gravid Uterus.

Halleri Icones anatomicae.

Albini Explicat: Tabul: Anatom: Eustachii.

*Quarto*

The Works of Alex. Monro, M.D.F.R.S., by his Son.

The Works of Robert Whytt, M.D.F.R.S., by his Son.

Lewis's Materia Medica, by Aikin.

Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Vol. I.

Recherches sur l'origine &c. de la Chirurg: en France.

Memoires de l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie, à Paris. Tom. 2.

Albini Annotations.

*Octavo*

Thesaurus Medicus Edinens: Vol. 2.

Martini Comment. in Eustach: Tabul: Anatom:

Fourcroy's Elements of Chemistry. 2. vol.

Boerhaave's Academical Lectures. 6 vol.

Memoirs of the Academical Society of London. 1787.

London Medical Journal.

Medical Observations. 3 vol.

Pringle on the Diseases of the Army.

Whytt on Nervous Disorders.

Pott's Chirurgical Works. 3 vol.

Bell's System of Surgery. 5 vol.

Bell on Ulcers &c.

Sharpe's Surgery.

Le Dran's Observations in Surgery.

12 mo.

Edinburgh Medical Essays. 6 vol."

These twenty-six books were not a large library, to be sure, but they indicated a strong beginning at a time when medical literature in New England was scarce. It was only six years since the beginning of the society.

In the year 1790 an appropriation was made for publishing the first volume of the Medical Communications. The reader is referred to the chapter on Publications for an account of the details attending the getting out of this first venture. For the time the library sank into relative unimportance.

The files preserve a report of the library committee, dated "Boston, 31 May, 1790" by which it appears that they had purchased a number of books to the value of thirty pounds and had delivered them to the librarian. We have also Dr. Dexter's receipt for these books, also dated May 31, 1790. The following books were received — List No. 1:

Edinburgh Medical Commentaries. 13 vols.  
 Bell's System of Surgery. 6 vols. unbound.  
 Bergmann's Physical & Chemical Essays. 2 vols.  
 Sheldon's History of the Absorbent System 4to.  
 Hamilton's Outlines of Midwifery. 8vo.  
 Arnold on Insanity. 2 vols. 8vo.  
 Transactions of the College of Physicians. Lond. 3 vols.  
 Cullen's Synopsis Nosologicae methodicae. 2 vols.  
 Fleming's Lectures on Physiology. 8vo.  
 Manning's Modern Improvements in Physic and Surgery. 2 vols. 8vo.  
 Drake's Observations in Midwifery.  
 Stark's Medical Essays. 4to.  
 Monro on the Bursae mucosae. fol.  
 Fowler on Arsenic.  
 Sheldon on the Kneepan.  
 Lowndes on Medical Electricity.

} Pamphlets

Another receipt, marked No. 2, and signed "A. Dexter Librarian" with the same date, is as follows — List No. 2:

Thesaurus medicus Edinens: nov: Tom. 2.  
 Cullen's Treatise of the Materia Medica. 2 vols.  
 Sundry French Books viz.  
 Baume's Pharmacy. 1773.  
 Dictn'y of Surgery. 2 vols. 1767.  
 Fontanus on the Diseases of Children. 12 mo.  
 Gardane on the Venereal Disease. 1770.  
 Lieutand's Practice of Physic. 1761.  
 Dionis's Operations of Surgery.  
 Petit on Diseases of the Bones. 2 vols. 1741.



Botanical Dictn'y. 1759.

Dienert's *Materia Medica*. 1765.

De la Faye's *Principles of Surgery*. 1773.

Morgagni de *sedibus causis morborum*, translated by Alexander. 3 vols. large 4to.

Medical Observations & Enquiries by a Society of Physicians. London. 6 vols.

The library committee which was intrusted with the purchase of the above books was appointed by the society, June 17, 1789 and consisted of the following men: "Doct<sup>r</sup>. Isaac Rand, jun<sup>r</sup>., Hon. John Brooks, Doct<sup>r</sup>., David Townsend, Doct<sup>r</sup>. William Eustis & D<sup>r</sup>. Nathaniel W. Appleton," as attested by Dr. Appleton in a notification to Dr. Rand. Apparently another list of the books in the library was made in 1791, and the rules governing the library were to be printed but the cost was found to be excessive — probably because of the expense of the first volume; the next year it was voted to suspend the printing of the catalogues of the books in the library. Then the third article of the second section of the library laws was repealed and in its place a section made which provided that a member who retained a book longer than the time allotted in the first article, should be deprived of the privilege of taking out any other book for the term of six months; also that the librarian should supply each fellow with a written copy of the rules respecting the loan and return of books.

In January, 1793 William Spooner succeeded Dr. Dexter as librarian, carrying all three titles as did his predecessor. He lived on Cambridge Street while Dexter's residence was on Milk Street, "opposite the Rope Walk," so that it was necessary to transfer the books and cabinet from the late to the present librarian, this duty being placed on the library committee by a vote of the society. It was at the same meeting that the resignation of N. W. Appleton as secretary was finally accepted. In 1794 he made a parting gift of "A Folio edition of Smellie's Anatomical Table, a quarto edition of the Medical Works of Richard Smead, M.D. and a small box containing a few anatomical preparations." At this distance it is hard to discover what comprised the "Cabinet." Well along in the next century it was spoken of scornfully. Everyone knows how collections, especially those of small size, become scattered and deteriorate if left without expert care. After 1795 the librarian was known only as "librarian and cabinet keeper," having sloughed off the title of "vice-treasurer."



We have come now to the lean years of the society, previous to the reorganization in 1803. The records say little about the library. Committees were appointed to examine it each year and they reported in due course.

The library was removed once more in 1800, returning to Milk Street to John Fleet's home. The committee taking charge of the removal was made up of Dr. Dexter, former librarian, and Dr. Whipple, corresponding secretary, the offices of recording secretary, librarian and cabinet keeper being now combined in the person of Dr. Fleet, who was to hold office as librarian until 1813, when he died.

John Fleet (1766–1813) was one of two first graduates of the new Harvard Medical School in 1788; he was to be the first librarian of the Boston Medical Library in 1805. The present librarian of that institution, Dr. John W. Farlow, has sketched his life for "American Medical Biographies" and there we learn that Fleet was born in Boston, April 29, 1766 and died in that town unmarried, January 4, 1813. His grandfather, Thomas Fleet, who came from England and settled in Boston, was a bookseller, printer and newspaper publisher. He died in 1758, leaving his business to his two sons, one of them, John, being the father of our librarian, John, who was graduated from Harvard in the class of 1785 at the age of nineteen. He began medical study at once in the Harvard Medical School, dissecting under Dr. John Warren. Although the medical school had been in existence since 1782 no medical degrees had been conferred as yet. We have noted elsewhere the friction that existed between the school and the state medical society; the censors of this society were especially severe with Dr. Warren's students and went out of their way to prove, if they could, by exhaustive quizzing, when the students were brought before them, that such students were unfitted to practice. The two graduates in 1788, Hall and Fleet, had had a hard time with the censors during the year, according to Ephraim Eliot; certificates had been refused them by the board made up of James Lloyd, Joseph Gardner, Oliver Prescott, Samuel Danforth and Isaac Rand, Jr. Rand is reported to have tried to have the candidates withdraw, on the ground that the opposition from the censors in their private capacity would ruin the young men in their attempts to practice. They persisted; another examination was held the Saturday before commencement by the same board, altered only in its makeup at the annual meeting June 4, 1788 by the withdrawal of James Lloyd



as first censor and the addition of Charles Jarvis as fifth censor. The two young men were, in the language of Eliot, "Thoroughly sifted; and they afforded much gratification to all those who were present"; they were passed by the censors and received from the college degrees of M. B. on July eighteen. Seven years later, in 1795, Fleet was given the degree of M. D. by Harvard, having passed an examination, been approved by the medical professors and having presented a thesis in Latin, which was printed by his brother Thomas. Its title was: "*Observationes ad Chirurgiae Operationes Pertinentes.*" Another of his publications that has come down to us is a discourse on "Animation" delivered before the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1797, Fleet being a member of that society. He was the first assistant appointed in the medical department in Harvard College, receiving this appointment in 1793. He was one of the incorporators of the Boston Medical Library (1805-1826) in 1805 and was its first librarian, serving for two years; in 1809 he joined in starting the short-lived Boston District Medical Society, being librarian and cabinet keeper. It is evident he was a bookish man with literary affiliations, both in his family and his associations. He must be reckoned as one of the learned medical men of his time.

Benjamin Waterhouse wrote a letter to the corresponding secretary in 1803 with reference to a gift of books from Dr. Lettsom that has been kept in the files. It is reproduced here. We can surmise only why he did not want to have acknowledgement to Dr. Lettsom made through him.

For several years after the "rejuvenation" of the society, as it was called in the records, there are no entries in the minutes to show what was transpiring as to the collection of books. February 6, 1806 a committee was appointed by the council to examine the state of the library, to report on it and also to present a catalogue to the society, the committee being John C. Warren, Benjamin Shurtleff and John Fleet, the librarian. Shurtleff being ill James Jackson, an intimate friend and compatriot of Warren, was appointed in Shurtleff's place on June 5. After the report of this committee had been accepted by the society at its meeting of June 4, 1806 it was voted that the same committee should draw up regulations for the library and report to the council. A week later the report was accepted by the council and a copy ordered transmitted to the committee for publishing the by-laws, the report to be inserted with them in the same book. This was not done, how-



Cambridge May 4<sup>th</sup> 1803

Sir

Five or six months ago, I received from  
Dr. Lettson, by the way of Philadelphia several  
8<sup>vo</sup> copies of his Observations on the Cawpock  
for certain Divines & Physicians in and  
about Boston; also some of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition  
for certain Societies. The one which he directed  
for the Mass. Medical Society I sent to the Pre-  
sident —

When Societies vote thanks for such presents,  
I know it is customary to transmit the vote  
by the hand through which such book came.  
But I have a particular reason (which is  
known to the President) for wishing that the cor-  
responding secretary would send it direct to  
Dr. Lettson, and not through the hands of  
your humble servant  
Ben<sup>n</sup> Waterhouse

LETTER OF BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE CONCERNING A GIFT OF BOOKS TO  
THE SOCIETY





ever. The report has been copied, also the catalogue. They will be found at the end of this chapter.

In October, 1806 began an attempt to find accommodations for the library outside the home of the librarian where the books might be more accessible to all the fellows. It was planned to have the library in the permanent meeting-place of the society and council. At this time the society was meeting at the hall of the Boston Library in Franklin Place so on June 4, 1807 it was voted to authorize the committee on the library, namely, the president, John Warren, Aaron Dexter and John Fleet, the librarian, to obtain necessary accommodations but not to pledge the society for the payment of more than a thousand dollars for said accommodations. This committee reported that it had been "restrained from executing this business" by the petition to the legislature for the grant of a township of land in Maine to the society for the avowed purpose of providing such accommodations for the society. The council was meeting at Vila's and at the room of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The society, council and library appear to have combined on accommodations at White's Building at 49 Marlborough Street (now 400 Washington Street) in 1810 when the Harvard Medical School moved into the same structure.

A committee reported to the council February 4, 1808 that they found

"the library in good order and that the only books retained contrary to the library regulations [see pages 412 and 413 for these regulations] are those heretofore reported to be in the hands of Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, the 18th vol. of Medical Commentaries in the hands of Dr. Lloyd, & 3 vols. of Boerhaave's lectures in the hands of Dr. Josiah Bartlett."

Donations of books were received in this year of 1808 from Dr. Nicholas Romayne of New York, Dr. Eldad Lewis of Lenox, Mass., and the Medical Society of South Carolina.

Each year a library committee was appointed and reported religiously, the reports having been preserved in the society's files, for the most part. At a special meeting on June 20, 1810 permission was granted J. C. Warren, at the time recording secretary, to place a collection of anatomical preparations in the society's room at 49 Marlborough Street, that had been engaged in conjunction with the "Boston District Medical Society" in February, 1810 at a yearly rental of one hundred dollars. The Boston Medical Library was here also with John Warren as librarian.



On February 3, 1813 it was

"Voted, That the library committee be charged with receiving the library from the hands of the executors of the late Dr. Fleet and of delivering the same into the hands of the new librarian [John Dixwell] and also that they determine on the placing and preservation of the cabinet."

From this it would appear that the cabinet, and the library as well, had been with Dr. Fleet until this time. The next vote on the library was of the date of October 6, 1813 when we read:

"The committee for considering the expediency of increasing the library of the society reported that it is not expedient to increase the library for reasons stated in the report, for which see the files."

This particular report is not to be found in the files so we must assume that lack of funds may have been one of the reasons, for the society was poor, just then, the treasurer having been authorized to "hire the sum of five hundred dollars and to give his note therefor, in behalf of the society."

Moving along two years we find this record under date of February 15, 1815:

"The committee to examine the library report that they found the library as received from the last librarian [John Dixwell] in a very improved state and the books generally in good order; that two books only are missing."

The committee thought that these losses had occurred because of liberty allowed the fellows of access to the library without the presence of the librarian and they recommended that no person should be allowed to take a book from the library except in the presence of the librarian or his substitute, and that the substitute should in no case deliver a book excepting by an order from the librarian. Although there are no facts recorded to that effect we are justified in assuming that the library was at 49 Marlborough Street, with the Boston Medical Library and Second Social Library, until 1819 when it was moved to the new building of the Massachusetts Medical College in Mason Street, there to stay until it went to the Boston Athenaeum in Pearl Street in the year 1827.

John Dixwell served as librarian but one year, John Gorham for four and William Gamage one again, the year of the moving to Mason Street. Not much was said about the library in those days. In the council minutes in the year 1817 there is a memorandum that six books were reported missing and the librarian was directed to advertise for them.



On February 3, 1819 the society received a box of books from Sir James Wylie, Surgeon-General of the Russian Armies, an honorary member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the "thanks of the counsellors" being presented to him for "his elegant and valuable present." Then followed this minute:

"Voted that a list of the books be recorded, viz: "*Hortus Mosquensis*" 1 Vol. Folio; "*Synopsis Praxis Medica-Obstetriciae Richteri*," Quarto, both elegantly bound in morocco; "*Tabulae Synopticae Zoognosia*," 3 Vols. 1st vol. Quarto, 2d & 3d Octavo, elegant; "*Genera Umbelliferarum*" with plates. Oct°. not bound; "*Geschichte der Medicin in Russland, Richter*," 2 vols. Oct°. elegant. bound; "*oratorio*," &c. per Jn°. Orlay."

At the same meeting of the council the corresponding secretary announced the presentation of "An Essay on Contagions and Infections" by the author, Dr. John Linnaeus Edward Shecut of Charleston, South Carolina, and "Reflections on Fever" by Dr. Lyman Spalding of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a fellow of the society. The next year Dr. David Hosack of New York presented "Thomas' Practice of Physick," edited by himself, and an address to the Historical Society of New York. Then the committee on the Library reported that "the books were all in, and in good order."

It was on June 7, 1821 that a vote was passed to procure a book plate and to put the name of the donor in each book. The only book plate that has been found is the one reproduced opposite page 392. The artistic quality of the representation of Aesculapius is of even inferior merit to that of the original seal. Aesculapius is narrower of shoulder, just as splay footed, his toga is less artistically draped, while hillocks have been introduced into the background and foliage on the left of the picture. The serpent on the caduceus is quite lifelike and the stag's horns show more careful drawing than in the original seal. The general aspect of the bookplate has much to recommend it as a quaint design of the early part of the nineteenth century.

The society ordered a new catalogue of the library to be made by the librarian in this year, 1821, to be printed by the publication committee. No copy of this catalogue has been preserved. It was at this time that Francis Vergnies of Newburyport presented to the library in a letter addressed to J. C. Warren, dated June 12, 1821, one hundred and eighty titles from his library. We have the catalogue of these books as well as his letter. According

to a vote of the council the books were not actually received by the society until 1833, three years after Vergnies' death. Vergnies was a fellow of the society from 1806, shortly after the reorganization, until his death in 1830. Judging by his books he must have been a learned man.

The question whether a part of the books of the library might be deposited for any definite time with the district societies for the use of their members was raised at this time and a committee of three, Jackson, Coffin and Chaplin, was appointed to consider it, reporting in October, 1821, recommending such loans and submitting regulations to govern them that were to be laid before the next annual meeting. The regulations adopted by the society June 5, 1822 provided that the books so borrowed — not over fifty in number — should be transported at the expense of the district societies, should be returned within two years, should be selected by the council or its committee, should be under the charge of an officer appointed by a district society, and that while the books were in charge of a district society the fellows of such district could not take out books from the main library of the society. At this same meeting the committee on the library reported making amendments to the twelve regulations concerning the preservation of the library as contained in the sixth chapter of the by-laws. The amendments were adopted. The librarian had to give a written receipt for a book that had been taken out on a written application; no fellow could retain a book longer than three months — if he did he was fined twenty-five cents a week during the retaining of a book, and all books must be returned before the twentieth of May in each year, after which, no book was to be issued until the annual meeting was over. By this plan, initiated in 1806, it was possible to "take stock" of the library annually. In October of that year it

WAS

*"Voted, That the catalogue of books belonging to this society be committed to the Committee of Publications to be printed; that the names of the donors be attached to the titles of the books in the printed catalogue."*

We know that there were four hundred and twenty-five books in that catalogue, from the report of the committee on the library, but the catalogue itself has not come down to us either in manuscript or printed form. The Essex South District asked for fifty books at the next meeting of the council and its request was granted, Channing, Jackson and Randall being the committee to





deliver them. The same committee inadvertently delivered fifty volumes each to the Berkshire and to the Worcester districts, thinking that they had authority to do so, the Council ratifying their action on February 5, 1823.

As showing an attempt to obtain a portion of the assessments paid in by members of a district society for the purpose of increasing their library and to take measures to augment the library of the society itself we may note the report of the committee of three appointed by the council June 2, 1825 to consider the petition of Dr. Batchelder of the Worcester District. The amended report was accepted October 5, 1825, to this effect:

"The committee [Richard Hazeltine, James Gardner and Benjamin L. Oliver] do not think it expedient to remit any portion of the annual assessment on Fellows of the Society residing in the Worcester District Society also that it is inexpedient to adopt any measures for increasing the Library of the General Society for the present."

In the original report, before it had been amended, the committee had thought it proper to relinquish to that society all the fees arising from licenses granted to candidates to practise, and a provision was inserted to the effect that no steps should be taken to enlarge the library "till the contemplated building for the use of the Society shall be completed." As to a building for the society, there is a long story which will be found in another place.

From this time we must depend on the council records for items concerning the library with an occasional excerpt from the reports of the library committees. We find the following vote as of October 5, 1825:

"The committee to which was referred a vote of the council, June 1825, as to the expediency of taking measures for the increase of the library reported that it was inexpedient to adopt any measures at present,"

the committee being Richard Hazeltine, James Gardner and Benjamin L. Oliver. Again, on February 7, 1827 it was

"*Voted*, That the Librarian be directed to write the Berkshire Medical District Society and request them to return the books belonging to the Library, as they have been already retained beyond the period allowed by law."

At the same meeting a committee had been empowered to take a lease of a room for the meetings of the society and the library, in the new building in the rear of the Boston Athenaeum in Pearl Street. The first meeting of the council was held in that building

on October 3, 1827. Presumably the library was transferred there from the Mason Street building at that time. John Brooks had given his library of one hundred and thirty-six volumes to the society when he died in office in 1825.

Here is another vote, this time dated February 4, 1829:

"The Librarian was directed to purchase such works on Natural Philosophy and the Latin Language, to be placed in the hands of the Censors of the Society, as are required for the examination of candidates."

The reader is referred to the chapter on Licensing for an explanation of this vote. Another duty of the librarian at this time is disclosed by the following vote of June 2, 1831:

"That the Librarian be authorized to furnish new members with one copy each of the Library of Practical Medicine published by the Society, at one dollar a copy."

The "Library of Practical Medicine" is described in the chapter on Publications. In October, 1830 "the President was authorized to allow certain bills for binding some of the books in the library which had been done under the direction of the Librarian" (Enoch Hale, at that time).

In 1832 a vote of thanks to Dr. Chervin, of Paris, France, was passed for his donation of books to the library and the same year the librarian was authorized "to pay not exceeding five dollars for an assistant in distributing the second volume of the Library of Practical Medicine." At this time there were three hundred volumes in the library. The following year a committee was appointed "to designate the books to be delivered to the several district societies, as they may become entitled to them under the provisions of the forty-fourth and forty-fifth by-laws of the Society." These provided that the number of books for a district society should be sixty. The library had received accessions in the gift of the one hundred and eighty titles from Dr. Francis Vergnies' library, already referred to, also books from James H. Pierrepont, M.D., of Portsmouth, and from Francis Boott, M.D., of London, England, his book on the "Life and Medical Opinions of John Armstrong, M.D." The second volume of this work was received in 1835.

The next reference to the library and its appendage, the cabinet, is the sarcastic reference in the report of the Committee for the Library and Cabinet in the year 1836, signed by Edward Reynolds and George Hayward. It follows:



"They have also attended to the other arduous duty assigned them — the examination of the Cabinet. It gives them pain to feel obliged to state that the valuable preparation of this Cabinet, exhibits at last too evident marks of decay. It is to be feared that the Cabinet may in the course of time be lost to the Society unless some measures be taken forthwith to arrest the destructive progress of the worm that has already begun to prey upon it. They therefore take the liberty of recommending the appointment of some skillful curator to the Cabinet, whose duty it shall be to take all measures necessary to preserve the same from the worm and the dust, or whatever other causes may tend to impair its beauty or its usefulness."

The report was read and accepted at the annual meeting, and Dr. E. Reynolds, Jr., was appointed curator of the Cabinet for the ensuing year.

The following year John Jeffries reported for the committee on the library that "The single anatomical preparation in the Cabinet is in a tolerable state of preservation." In 1843 it was in "a doubtful state of preservation." It was decided to sell the sixth volume of the "Library of Practical Medicine" through the librarian to "such fellows as shall hereafter be admitted to the Society, one copy to each, for \$1.25," according to the vote passed in 1837.

In May, 1840 it was

*"Voted:* That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to the New York State Medical Society for the donation of their publications. *Voted,* To bind the unbound volume of this donation."

By this we see that there was an exchange of publications between some of the state medical societies, a custom that persisted until these publications were printed in a periodical official organ. The New York Society had been organized in 1807, had held regular meetings and was an active society.

In 1841 the Hampden district, organized the previous year, petitioned for the loan of sixty volumes of the books in the library; the petition was granted and the librarian authorized to deliver them. In October, 1842 the librarian was authorized to present to the Boston Athenaeum and to the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, one copy each of the "Library of Practical Medicine," published by the society. By 1843 the twelfth and thirteenth volumes of that library of practical medicine had been published and the librarian was to furnish new members with copies at seventy-five cents each. At the October meeting of the council in 1844 Dr. John Harpur, librarian of the Barnstable district, organized in the same year as the Hampden district, requested the



council to appoint a fellow to designate sixty volumes to which that district was entitled, and it was so voted. The year 1845 saw the publication of the sixteenth volume of the Library of Practical Medicine, each district society, each retired fellow and every active fellow whose dues had been paid receiving a copy. The report of the library committee for this year shows that the catalogue contained the names of 465 separate works comprised in 726 volumes, among them being a small number of duplicates. Fourteen volumes were missing.

The succeeding year the British Museum asked for a set of the society's publications whereupon the librarian was ordered to collect a set and forward it. The committee on the library reported that the books in the possession of the different district societies were as follows: Worcester, 59 volumes; Hampshire, 60; Essex South, 60; Middlesex, 40. Nineteen volumes were in the possession of individuals and twenty-five unaccounted for.

Although the society met for the first time in the large hall in the Masonic Temple, Tremont Street and Temple Place, in May, 1839, the society's room was not removed from Pearl Street to the latter address until two years later. The council held its first meeting in a room in the Masonic building on May 27, 1841. At this meeting a committee of two, consisting of J. C. Warren and Winslow Lewis, reported that they had engaged this room, at the behest of the council, for the council meetings and with the additional use of the large hall in the same building for the annual meetings of the society at a rental of \$125 per annum. The Masonic Temple, on the corner of Temple Place and Tremont Street, an imposing granite structure with two towers, had been dedicated in 1832, therefore it was relatively new when first occupied by the society. Supposedly the library was moved into the society's room at the time it was occupied by the council, though no mention of the fact is made in the minutes or in the reports of the library committees. Still, as in other matters, what was the object of mentioning what everyone at the time knew? Some of us are old enough to remember the Masonic building after it was occupied by the United States Courts and still later by the R. H. Stearns Company. The Boston Athenaeum, which had occupied its quarters in Pearl Street from 1822, was to move to its Beacon Street home in 1849, eight years after the society had parted company with that eminent Boston institution.

A movement to safeguard the books and papers of the society



was inaugurated in February, 1847 when the corresponding and recording secretaries, treasurer and librarian were made a committee to report a plan for their preservation. If this committee reported, the fact was not entered in the minutes nor do the reports of the committees on the library shed any light on what may have been done. An interesting letter from the Sydenham Society of London, dated May 30, 1848, and written in Boston by the Honorable Local Secretary, was read to the council at the June meeting of that year. It stated the purposes of the Sydenham Society, which had been in existence for five years, to be the diffusion of medical literature; to create a relish for a higher and healthier medical literature than usually prevailed among the members of the profession at that time; the society had a membership of three thousand members, among them being some of the most distinguished lights of the profession in Great Britain. The local secretary presented a list of the works that the society had issued to its members during the preceding five years and solicited membership in Massachusetts.

The next vote regarding the library is one of May 31, 1849 to this effect:

"Resolved: that the librarian [A. A. Watson] be directed to notify all those who have books belonging to the library to return them forthwith." Also: "Resolved: that hereafter no fellow of the society shall be allowed to have more than four books at a time, or to retain any one longer than six months without special leave therefor from the counsellors." Also: "Resolved: that the whole subject of the present condition and future arrangement of the library be referred to the counsellors with full powers to act in the premises, as they shall deem most expedient for the rights of the whole society."

The council having voted such power to themselves they appointed a committee to consider the subject consisting of Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, Dr. Abraham Andros Watson and Dr. Edward Jarvis. According to an entry in Dr. Bowditch's handwriting, for he was recording secretary, his committee made a "slight verbal report" but he neglected to state what it was. However, with Dr. Watson he had made a long report for the library committee of that year, giving a list of books that were not in their places in the library, suggesting that the books should be cared for by a responsible officer of one of the district medical societies, they should be placed on covered shelves, protected from the dust, bound when necessary and a record kept of all loans, thus securing not only protection but a more rapid circulation of the books. He



was showing that interest in a library and its uses that was to result in the founding of the Boston Medical Library in 1875 after the library of the society had been given to the Boston Public Library in 1872. Apparently both Dr. Bowditch and Dr. Watson, who were respectively recording secretary and librarian, saw that the library was deteriorating because it belonged to a large society which took little care of it except through inspection by yearly committees and by votes and resolutions. What it needed was someone in charge whose duty it was to look after it; to actually care for the books, ask for new ones, record the goings and comings and adopt a progressive policy. Dr. Watson did what he could during the five years of his librarianship. In 1850 the library committee, Dr. George H. Lyman and Dr. Buckminster Brown found that out of 744 volumes belonging to the library 280 were missing. By 1851 Dr. Watson had recovered many of these and suggested that locks be put on the cases to prevent further losses, and in October of that year he was granted authority

“to place the books belonging to the society under such cover that they shall be safe from injury and depredation.”

Donations to the library of four books from Dr. Edwin Lee and Dr. John Forbes of London, England, were reported in 1851 and in 1855 two copies of a work on lithotomy and lithotripsy from the author, Dr. E. Buialsky of St. Petersburg. One of Dr. Buialsky's books was given to the library of the Harvard Medical School. By the report of the newly elected librarian of this year, Dr. John Burroughs Alley, there were in the library 466 volumes, with the district medical societies 178, and 53 were missing, making a total of 699, or less in number than five years previously. The society relinquished its room in the Masonic Temple in 1853 and moved to a room in Phillips Place off Tremont Street, opposite King's Chapel burying ground, where meetings were held and the library kept until it was necessary to give up that room in the spring of 1856. Then a move was made to No. 12 Temple Place where a room in the Perkins Building was occupied until 1870, when the society settled at No. 36 Temple Place in the building for a long time occupied by the Provident Institution for Savings in the Town of Boston, as it was and is called today. It was here that the library saw its last days, two years later. As early as 1862 the librarian, Dr. William Edward Coale, introduced the subject into a council meeting of removing the library to a more





convenient and accessible place, it then being at No. 12 Temple Place. The record of that meeting states that "After some discussion the whole matter was indefinitely postponed."

The decadent condition of the library was made evident by the remaining entries in the minutes and by the reports of the librarian and library committees. Here is the entry for May 24, 1864:

"The committee on the library and cabinet were absent and no report was sent in. The Librarian [W. E. Coale] reported that the library was in its usual condition, and that one member of the Society had, during the year, intimated an intention of taking out books, but had not done so."

It was at this meeting that Dr. James Clarke White was elected librarian, he serving until the books were given away in 1872. In 1867 a volume was received from Dr. Garnier of Paris, through Dr. B. E. Cotting; in 1868 a committee was appointed to examine the library and cabinet, bringing forth from Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, a member of that committee, a statement at the succeeding annual meeting to the effect that as there was no cabinet he moved that in future the committee be called the committee on the library; he moved in addition that a catalogue in manuscript of the library be prepared and it was so voted. This catalogue has thus far eluded search for it.

The beginning of the end came at the annual meeting in 1871 when Dr. George C. Shattuck, chairman of a committee on the library, read the report of the librarian, J. C. White, in which it was stated that no one had consulted the books the past year. "He proposed that the published volumes of the Society be disposed of by sale to members and other books be deposited in some public library." The committee on the library was directed to consider what disposition might be made of the books and to report at a future meeting. Dr. Shattuck reported for the committee on June 4, 1872, the other member of his committee being Dr. R. M. Hodges. They presented the following recommendations:

"1st, That the publications of the Society be sold for twenty cents a number to any member of the Society or to any District Society wishing to have them, and that the privilege be continued for six months. All of these books not disposed of in this way may be sold at auction."

"2d, All the other books may be given to the City Library or to any other public library willing to take charge of them."

"Report accepted and the committee instructed to carry out the recommendations."

From the report of the new librarian, David Hyslop Hayden, elected in 1872 for the year 1873 at the time the above recommendations were adopted, we learn that a large part of the library had been disposed of during the year in the way prescribed in the vote of the council; that a varying number of copies of the Medical Communications were still in the library, a specific list being given: that of twelve issues of the Library of Practical Medicine a specified number of copies of each had been preserved; of Copland's Medical Dictionary there was a large number of copies of numbers 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21; of number 22 only one copy. Besides there were miscellaneous volumes to the number of about a dozen, including the transactions of the Medical Society of Virginia, for the year 1872, and the transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, both donated to the society.

The disposition of the books that had been made by the council was not satisfactory to Dr. H. I. Bowditch and some others and at a council meeting on February 4, 1874 the question of the safe keeping of the manuscripts and records of the society was taken from the library committee and entrusted to a special committee consisting of H. I. Bowditch, Morrill Wyman and Francis Minot. It will be remembered that Dr. Bowditch had spent much time and care in making the so-called Bowditch Books, of important manuscripts and papers pasted into three folio volumes, during the time he had held the offices of recording and corresponding secretary — 1849 to 1854. He was in a position to understand the value of these and also of the large accumulation of papers in the possession of the society. His committee reported to the council on June 2, 1874. Unfortunately the books had been already transferred to the Boston Public Library at that time. One of the resolutions introduced by the committee was that the trustees of said library be asked for the privilege of allowing the secretary to select a complete set of the published transactions from the books given by the society, but the resolution was not adopted and two days later, June 4, the society itself confirmed by vote the gift of the books to the Boston Public Library. From the published report of the Public Library for the year 1873-1874 one may gather that the collection consisted of 1687 volumes, 9201 pamphlets and 16 broadsides. Many of these were to be sent to the Boston Medical Library years later (1905-1917) when a majority of the medical books of the Boston Public Library were deposited at that institution for the use of the members of the Medical

Library, the general public who presented cards from the Public Library, and the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, at their headquarters in the building at 8 The Fenway. Some 11,000 books were placed on deposit in this way by the city library. The society voted June 8, 1885 that all publications should be given in future to the Boston Medical Library, provided they be accessible to the members of the society.

Dissatisfaction with the disposal of the library of the Massachusetts Medical Society was the cause of a positive benefit to the medical community, for it stimulated Dr. James Read Chadwick, who had been brought into close touch with H. I. Bowditch and had only just returned from abroad full of the energy of accomplishment, to take measures to found the Boston Medical Library in 1875. For the history of that founding the reader is referred to Dr. John W. Farlow's "History of the Boston Medical Library," Privately printed. Boston, 1918.

Although our library ended so ignominiously it was, during its lifetime, an element of good. It fulfilled one of the functions of a library in promoting friendly relations with similar medical societies and scientific organizations both in this country and abroad. It called the attention of its fellows to the need of the use of books by practitioners of medicine, even though the machinery for providing all the members with reading matter was not perfected as it should have been. It must be remembered that the Massachusetts Medical Society was never affluent. In the early years it was in debt for a large part of the time. It could not afford to hire a librarian whose duty it should be to give his time to the care and distribution of the books of the library. The employment of such an official was the only solution of the problem of how to make the library succeed. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch saw this in 1850, having been brought into close touch with the valuable possessions of the library in the way of records and important papers that had come down from the past. It was necessary for the library to be in a central situation and open for long hours daily under the charge of a permanent regular custodian, in order that it might be useful to a large number and that it might grow in size. These conditions were not met and the books were scattered. That it was replaced by the Boston Medical Library, now the fourth in size of the medical libraries of the country, used annually by ten thousand readers, is a convincing demonstration that a medical library was needed in the capital of the Common-



wealth of Massachusetts. We should not forget that the library of the state society helped keep up the morale of the society, provided many of its fellows during the early years with the best reading matter at that time available, was a storehouse of the Medical Communications, published by the society and their point of distribution, besides bringing the society into touch with many men eminent in the medical profession.

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#### REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE LIBRARY. 1806

"At a meeting of the counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, held in Boston June 13, 1806, the committee to amend the library regulations made report following, which was accepted & ordered to be transmitted for printing, to the committee for the publication of the Bye-laws. J. C. Warren, Rec. Sec."

"1. The librarian shall have in his custody and charge all books belonging to the society, shall keep a register of, & arrange them into proper classes, and deliver them out to the fellows of the society, under the regulations subjoined, & such as may hereafter be adopted.

2. The fellows of this society shall be entitled to the use of such books as belong to the library of the society, on their application to the librarian & giving him a receipt therefor. And it shall be the duty of the librarian to keep a record of the delivery and receipt of such books, and of the dates of the same.

3. No fellow shall be allowed to retain a book from the library longer than three months; after the expiration of which time, if he refuse or neglect to return it agreeably to notice from the librarian, he shall be deprived of the privilege of taking out any other book till the return of the same.

4. Whenever a book has been retained three months, it shall be the duty of the librarian to notify the person so retaining it thereof, and if it is not returned in six weeks after the date of such notification, the librarian shall give information to the recording secretary, who shall record the names of the person holding the book, & of the book, on the journal of the counsellors, and read the same at every annual meeting of the society, & at every meeting of the counsellors, until such book shall be restored to the library.

5. If any book in the possession of a fellow shall be injured, it shall be completely repaired or replaced.

6. No fellow shall have at one time more than one folio, two quartos, or three of smaller size.

7. The librarian shall cause each book belonging to the library to be marked on the inside cover with the arms of this society, and underneath the following words: "Property of the Massachusetts Medical Society" or "Gift of A.B. to the Massachusetts Medical Society" as the case may be.

8. When a fellow applies for a book belonging to but not in the library at the time of application, he may leave his request in writing with the librarian, who shall, on the book's being returned, loan it to the person so applying.

9. All books belonging to the library shall be returned, or called for by the librarian, on or before 20th of May annually, & none of them shall be again loaned before the day following the annual meeting of the society, in June. Any one not complying with this regulation shall be subject to the penalty of the 3rd and 4th articles.

10. Honorary members, resident in this state, shall have the same privileges of the library as the fellows on paying to the treasurer the sum of one dollar annually.

11. At the last stated meeting of the counsellors in every year, there shall be appointed a committee consisting of three persons, to be called the library committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to examine the state of the library and report the same at the subsequent annual meeting of the society, to ascertain whether the regulations respecting the library have been complied with, also to report to the society, or to the counsellors, as the case may require, all such measures respecting the library as they may judge necessary or expedient.

Signed { J. C. Warren  
J. Fleet  
J. Jackson Committee "

## CATALOGUE OF 1806

*Folio*

Cowper's anatomy with plates.	Offenbach's works (missing).
Haller's Icones anatomicae — plates.	Myerowsmographia — Cooke —
Hunter's plates of the gravid uterus.	Dioscorides de medicinali materia.
Albinus's tables of Eustachius — 2 sets.	Monro — on the bursae mucosae.
Hippocrates — opera.	Smellie's tables.
Monro on the nervous system — plates.	Medicae artis principes. 3 vols.
	Morgagni de causis et sedibus.

*Quarto*

Harvey — opera.	Sheldon's absorbent system.
Monro's works.	Stark's works.
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 Hints to promote medical science &c.  
 Haggarth on fever.  
 London medical register. 1783.  
 Tournefort's materia medica.  
 Willis anima brutorum.  
 Wallis on diseases.  
 Tytler on plague and yellow fever.  
 Bell's surgery. 4 vols.  
 Duncan's annals — 1796-7-8-9. 4 vols.  
 London practice.  
 Alexander's enquiries.  
 Currie's diseases of America.  
 Cullen's materia medica. 2 vols.  
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 Brown's elements of medicine.  
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 Carey on fever.  
 Moore's sketches.  
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 Edinburgh Dispensatory. 1804. also 1806. 2 vols.  
 Cox's Dispensatory.  
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- Cullen's synopsis by Lewis.  
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 Address of philanthropic society.  
 Homer's century sermon.



Waterhouse's synopsis.

Rush's eulogium on Cullen.

Westminster society for insuring lives.

State of Royal humane society.

Lowell's eulogium on Gov. Bowdoin.

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Proceedings College of Physicians of  
Philadelphia.

Romayne's address.

Account of the state prison.

## CHAPTER XIV

### POLICE DUTY AND DISCIPLINE

FROM an idealistic standpoint a state medical society should be composed of members who are all gentlemen and know how to behave under any conditions, therefore no police system should be needed. No doubt the censors in admitting new fellows consider that they have provided for just such high-minded, well-regulated members; still, there is always an opportunity for error in judgment, men sometimes are not what they seem on short acquaintance; furthermore, human nature is so constituted that a change takes place in moral characteristics in response to varying temptations and to alterations in outlook. So it comes about that a practical method of checking misdoing becomes a necessity for any large association of individuals. Let us glance over the system that has been developed by the Massachusetts Medical Society through a long series of years.

The question of maintaining discipline and getting rid of undesirable fellows naturally was of little importance while the society was a select body of seventy fellows, therefore no mention is made of these topics in the by-laws previous to the reorganization of the society in 1803, when the limitation on the membership was removed. However, we find a first evidence of friction in the records of the society under date of November 8, 1788, six years after the actual beginning. It was between James Lloyd, one of the incorporators, and Marshall Spring, of Watertown, a hot-headed fellow who had joined the society in 1784. Here is the entry:

"Doctor [James] Lloyd laid on the table a paper purporting to be a charge against Doctor [Marshall] Spring for conducting in an improper manner as a Fellow of this Society, which was read, the Society then *Voted*, That they would proceed to take cognizance of the case at their meeting in April next; that the Recording Secretary furnish Dr. Spring with a copy of the charge, and of this vote requesting his attendance at the next meeting. N.B. The original charge is on file at the Recording Secretary's office."

The recording secretary was, of course, Nathaniel Walker Appleton, who lived in Latin School Street, now School Street. Dr. Lloyd's letter follows:

## LETTER OF DR. JAMES LLOYD

"TO THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
Gentlemen: —

The Subscriber thinks himself obliged by the duty he owes the Society, as well as by the feelings of a Man, to submit to you the following State of facts. — That he together with Doct<sup>r</sup>. Joseph Gardiner deceased, and Doctor Isaac Rand Jun<sup>r</sup>., being appointed Censors by the Society; in pursuance of their Appointment, and under the sanction of law, examined, among others, a pupil of Doct<sup>r</sup>. Marshall Spring, and after a fair impartial hearing, adjudged the said pupil, not qualified for present admission to practice — That Doctor Gardiner and Doctor Rand being Junior Censors, respectively declared their opinions prior to the subscriber, free from any influence or prejudice communicated by him, he being unacquainted with the pupil untill the moment of the examination, ignorant of his Instructor, and guided in his decision by calm conviction and a sense of duty. — That since the said examination Doct<sup>r</sup>. Spring, in a most injurious manner declared his opinion, that this pupil was rejected through the influence of the Subscriber "to gratify a personal pique and animosity," thereby ascribing a conduct which proceeded from duty to the public, and to the Society, to the most base and ungenerous motives," and supposing his Brother Censors incapable of giving a free and independent opinion — That not content with this injurious charge, "Doctor Spring also declared that the subscriber had reported abroad the rejection of the said pupil" — which being in violation of the laws of the Society, is an imputation, which if believed, would reflect Great Scandal upon the Subscriber — That after hearing these aspersions, the Subscriber took pains to communicate with Doctor Spring, assurances that his accusations were unjust, but instead of being pacified by this Measure, he persisted in declaring that he still had his suspicions, thus aggravating his former charges with an intimation of the Subscriber's falsehood; By this unusual and illiberal conduct Doctor Spring has not only defamed the Subscriber, but has grossly reflected upon the conduct of His Brother Censors for performing their duty — In their behalf, as well as in his own, he appeals to the Society for redress, and as they acted under their appointment and for their honor and advantage, he conceives that the injury and Insult extend to the whole society, and requires an exemplary satisfaction. He begs leave also to suggest that unless the members are countenanced and protected, by the Society, in the execution of their offices, none will be found to undertake them, however necessary, and as every individual is exposed to the same abuse, the peace and harmony of the Society must speedily vanish if it be not discouraged.

I am with great respect  
Gentlemen,

Yr. Most Obedt. Servant

(Signed)

James Lloyd."

Boston, Nov<sup>r</sup>. 5th, 1788.

Consideration of the charge was postponed at the April meeting until the June meeting when, Dr. Spring being present, the un-



finished business, the complaint being a part of it, was referred to the next meeting. Finally on April 14, 1790 it was

"Ordered that the next meeting of the Society be the time assigned to take into consideration the charge made by Doctor Lloyd in November 1788 against Doctor Spring and that the parties be notified hereof by the Secretary."

On the afternoon of June 2, 1790, both Dr. Lloyd and Dr. Spring being present, the charge was read and it was

"*Voted*, That all records that have been made respecting the controversy between Drs. Lloyd and Spring be considered as expunged and done away."

Thus the accuser and the accused faced each other in open meeting, although the opportunity did not come for a year and a half. Spring appears to have been the czar of medical practice in Watertown and the neighboring territory. Traditions handed down to us point to his possession of characteristics of force and a not too careful regard for the opinions of his fellow men. He enjoyed a very large practice and died in 1818 at the age of seventy-six.

In providing for a larger and more democratic membership for the society under the reorganization of 1803 the by-laws of 1804 provide (Chapter I, Section 5) that

"No Fellow having complied with the Laws and Regulations, shall be disfranchised, but by the Society at their annual meeting."

In the by-laws of 1816 (Chapter I, Section IV) is the following provision as to resignations:

"Every Fellow of the Society, who intends to resign his Fellowship, may assign his reasons therefor to the Counsellors, and if deemed sufficient, he shall be permitted to resign; and he shall thereupon be considered an honorary member; but if the reasons so assigned should not be satisfactory, and he should withdraw from the Society, he shall not afterward be entitled to any of the privileges either of Fellows or Licentiates of the Society."

In accordance with this provision we find in the records of the council for October 5, 1808 that a letter was read from Dr. Thomas Williams of Roxbury "requesting to resign" his fellowship and assigning his reasons therefor. Thereupon it was

"*Voted*, That the reasons assigned by Dr. Williams are satisfactory and that his request be therefore granted."

In the case of Dr. Thomas Danforth, on the other hand, it was

"*Voted*, That as Dr. Th. Danforth has not offered reasons for his request being granted, and therefore not conformed with the Bye-laws of the Society,

his request cannot be granted, so far as respects his fellowship." "Voted, That Dr. Th. Danforth's resignation of the office of Counsellor be accepted."

At the same meeting a committee was appointed to consider and report what course should be pursued towards members who resign or relinquish their fellowship. The committee reported

"that the names of Fellows who shall relinquish their fellowship, not conformably to the Bye-laws, shall be discontinued from the list of Fellows; that the names of those who shall resign their fellowship conformably to the Bye-laws, shall be removed from the list of Fellows to that of honorary members."

Again in the council records of June 5, 1812 there is a vote that "the Counsellors cannot agree to Dr. Sibley's request that he have leave to resign his fellowship." It is plain that at this early date it was both difficult to get into the society and also to get out, for it was the custom to receive an acceptance from the proposed candidate for fellowship before he was admitted as a fellow. In order to leave the society under the proper auspices it was necessary to give reasons. Such a course tended to true up the membership and to leave not many with an indeterminate status, too often the case in similar societies. At the present time no one can get into the society except through action by the censors nor can he go out unless death claims him or the council has acted on his name.

The first committee on resignations was formed by the following vote of the council, February 5, 1823:

"Voted, That a committee of three, called the Committee on Resignations and Abatements of Dues, be chosen by ballot to receive, examine and refer to the Counsellors all applications for liberty to resign or abatement of dues."

Dr. John G. Coffin, Dr. John Dixwell and Dr. John Gorham were the committee, a "Standing Committee" to be merged in the course of time into the "Committee on Membership and Finances." Ultimately the final s of "Finances" was omitted and the present standing committee on Membership and Finance resulted — as late as 1897, when the change is first noted in the record. This committee has become one of the most important of the standing committees, handling as it does all requests to resign, to retire or to be transferred from one district society to another without a change of legal residence. In addition it considers and recommends to the council that fellows be deprived of the privileges of fellowship for non-payment of dues, taking up each case with the greatest care and going into its merits. On the financial side the

committee receives estimates from all the officers and chairmen of the other standing committees to make a budget that is submitted to the council at its February meeting; it recommends the amount of the dividend that shall be paid to the different district societies, passes on all extraordinary appropriations and supervises the investments that are made by the treasurer. Only the membership activities interest us here. Other things being equal, a fellow must be paid up in his dues before he is permitted to resign. In case of stress from illness or other adequate cause his dues are remitted by this committee, the council almost always acting on its recommendations. In other instances dues are remitted for adequate cause. If a fellow has been in arrears for three years after receiving three annual bills and two notices from the treasurer, has offered no suitable excuse, and there are no extenuating circumstances, the committee recommends that he be deprived of the privileges of fellowship, in other words that his name be dropped from the rolls. The council votes and takes action that is final.

Turning now to the consideration of matters of actual discipline the following entry in the council records of June 3, 1830 claims our attention:

"Whereas the President has received a letter from a Counsellor of the Society preferring a complaint against Dr. Paul Kittredge of Littleton. *Voted*, That the said letter be placed on the files of the Corresponding Secretary, and that the said secretary be directed to write to Dr. Kittredge and inform him of the contents of the letter, but withhold the name of the writer, and ask his explanation."

At the next meeting it was reported that Dr. Kittredge had sent in a letter denying that he had consulted with an irregular practitioner and the writer of the charges was told to substantiate them. On June 2, 1831 a committee of the council had accepted Dr. Kittredge's explanation and the council accepted the report of the committee.

Several times between 1826 and 1829 the minutes stated that it "was not expedient to ballot for a certain applicant for membership in the Society" after a specially appointed committee had considered the circumstances in the case. This obviated a black-ball, for at this time the council elected new fellows, it being before the days of the perfected system of examination by censors, now in vogue.

The first expulsion was that of Dr. John S. Bartlett in 1836. It led to an investigation of the Massachusetts Medical Society



three years later by the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Court, on his petition. The expulsion came about in this way: In the council records of a special meeting on May 4, 1836 we read:

"A committee was appointed consisting of A. L. Peirson, Samuel Johnson and David Osgood to enquire and report at an adjourned meeting whether any facts have come to their knowledge of infraction of the 8th By-Law relating to consultations."

The eighth by-law has this to say on the subject:

"it shall be unlawful for any fellow of this society in his professional capacity to advise or consult with any such irregular practitioner. For any breach of this law, a fellow of this society shall be disqualified for one year from giving his vote at any meeting of the society and of the district society of which he may be a member; he shall also be liable to the censure and reprimand of the counsellors, and in aggravated cases to expulsion."

What constituted an "irregular practitioner" is found in Section VIII of the By-Laws of 1832, as follows:

"Any person who is engaged in the practice of medicine or surgery in this commonwealth, not being a fellow or licentiate of this society, nor a Doctor in medicine of Harvard University, shall be deemed by the fellows of this society, an irregular practitioner; likewise any one, who has been expelled from this society, or who, after being permitted to resign his fellowship, has been deprived of his privileges, or who has withdrawn himself from the society without the permission of the counsellors, shall be deemed by the fellows of this society an irregular practitioner;"

At an adjourned meeting, May 11, 1836, the committee reported that they found that Dr. Bartlett had supported a Mr. John Williams, an oculist, in an editorial in a weekly newspaper [the *Boston Pilot*] of which he was joint editor and also had consulted with a Mr. Kearney, an irregular practitioner of Boston. They referred to a recent action of the London Medical Society in expelling a Dr. Thornton for associating himself with and recommending an irregular pretender and empiric, who introduced into practice medicated steam baths; and still more recently expelling a Dr. Ramage for consulting with and recommending in the *Times* newspaper, the celebrated and infamous St. John Long. The committee of the council considered that an aggravated case had occurred, the council took the same view and appointed a hearing, to be governed by these rules:

"1. The President shall appoint a Committee of two, who shall introduce Dr. B., and conduct him out when he retires. 2. The President shall appoint

a seat for Dr. B., and shall then call on him for his reply to the charges preferred against him. 3. Dr. B. shall then be permitted to make his defence in such terms as he thinks proper; but the President shall be at liberty to call him to order and to check him, if he attacks the character of other persons improperly, or otherwise pursues an unbecoming course. 4. No one of the Counsellors, except the President, shall speak while Dr. B. is present."

Every courtesy appeared to be extended to the accused. Each councilor was asked, after Dr. Bartlett had withdrawn, whether, in his opinion, Dr. Bartlett had infringed the eighth by-law in the two particulars specified, and the answers were unanimously in the affirmative. By vote a committee of three was appointed to support the charges before the society at the annual meeting, and A. L. Peirson, Samuel Johnson and Ebenezer Alden were the committee.

On the afternoon of May 25, 1836, following the annual dinner, the society reconvened in the hall in the rear of the Boston Athenaeum in Pearl Street, listened to Dr. Bartlett in his defence while the committee supported the charges. The following preamble and resolution were then read and adopted, the whole number present being 126; voting in the affirmative, 100; voting in the negative, 22:

"Whereas, Dr. John S. Bartlett, of Boston (residing at No. 11 Atkinson street) in a paper denominated the *Boston Pilot*, of which he is joint editor, in the number of said paper issued on the 12th of March, 1836, did recommend to public confidence and patronage, by an elaborate communication, under his own signature, an irregular practitioner, by the name of Williams, thereby violating the eighth By-Law of the Society, which declares . . . (then follows the quotation just cited) and whereas, the said Bartlett has been in the habit of frequently consulting professionally with another person, who is not a regular practitioner of medicine, according to the laws of this Commonwealth, and of this Society; and the said Bartlett having, on several public occasions, openly avowed these acts, and professed his determination to persevere in the commission of the same, in defiance of his promised obedience to the By-Laws of this Society, and in violation of those principles and feelings which should be presumed to govern the conduct of every physician, who regards the true honor and dignity of the profession; And, whereas, the present instance being of shameful publicity, and one of those aggravated cases for which the law contemplates the penalty of expulsion; and the same Bartlett, 'having had an opportunity given him to lay before the Society a refutation of the charges, or a defence of his conduct in the premises'; Therefore *Voted*, That Dr. J. S. Bartlett, of Boston, be expelled from this Society, and his name erased from the list of its fellows."

Bartlett filed a "petition or memorial" to the Legislature early in the year 1839, "concerning certain proceedings of the Massa-

chusetts Medical Society," asking that the society be deprived of its charter. A committee of the Legislature was appointed to report on the petition; ten hearings were held and both petitioner and the council were represented. The time before adjournment being too short for further hearings the committee made a printed report which was not acted on by the Legislature. Bartlett's petition was revived the following year, a special joint committee considered it and had summoned the president of the society to appear before it, when Bartlett died. The committee sent to the society a copy of their printed report of fourteen pages, in which they stated they were about to recommend leave to withdraw. It was read to the council May 28, 1840, and is on file.

In the spring of 1839 the council took action against a fellow for "gross immorality." He was summoned to appear before a special committee of the council, but instead of attending he sent to the recording secretary his license as a practitioner, his diploma, and resignation as a fellow. The council at a meeting on April 3, 1839 voted that the offending fellow is "deprived of all honors and privileges of the Society, and is hereafter to be deemed by the Fellows of the Society an irregular practitioner."

The Barnstable District Society made charges to the annual meeting of the society in 1850 reflecting on the "professional doings" of Dr. Henry J. Bigelow of Boston. Dr. Bigelow, at this time thirty-two years old, professor of surgery in the Harvard Medical School for that year, son of the eminent Jacob Bigelow who had been president of the society for five years previous to 1847, was a visiting surgeon to the Massachusetts General Hospital and was even then taking an interest in the mechanism of the hip joint, the Y ligament of which he was to demonstrate to the world shortly. According to the testimony of B. F. Hallett, a Boston lawyer, he had called Dr. Bigelow to attend his brother-in-law, Captain George Lovell, who was seriously ill, at his home in Osterville, with a carbuncle on his back, cared for by his wife and a medical student who lived with his mother across the street. Dr. Bigelow was not anxious to make the two-day journey to the Cape but finally acceded to the entreaties of Mr. Hallett, who was anxious to get the most expert advice possible. The Boston surgeon was driven from Sandwich eight miles by a student of medicine, Adoniram Judson Wakefield by name, who gave the patient ether, which had been then in use only three years. Dr. Bigelow opened the carbuncle by a stellate incision, left specific



instructions for the aftercare and went home, not to return. Hallett kept Dr. Bigelow informed of the subsequent progress of the case by daily letters. On May 18, 1850, four months after the operation at Osterville, the Barnstable District Medical Society passed resolutions to the effect that

"Dr. H. J. Bigelow did during the past winter visit this district, and professionally aid and abet by consultation and fellowship, one or more irregular practitioners, to the great mortification of his brethren, and whereas this society feeling it to be their duty to notice so gross a violation of the By-Laws, therefore Resolve, That Dr. Bigelow in prostituting the position which he occupies as a teacher and as an influential member of the profession is deserving the censure of every honorable practitioner and the recorded condemnation of this society."

Another resolution called the matter to the attention of the parent society and appointed a committee to present it at the next annual meeting. A copy was sent to Dr. Bigelow who subsequently wrote that this was the first he had heard of the accusation.

The matter was referred by the society to a committee consisting of James Jackson, Luther V. Bell and A. A. Gould, who made a long report which was accepted by the council October 3, 1850. It appeared by a clipping from a local paper on the Cape that A. J. Wakefield, who was described as "a modest and intelligent young man of from twenty-one to twenty-two years of age," had advertised that he had for several years been a "practitioner of the Reformed Practice of Medicine" and that persons desiring medical advice might consult him at his rooms in Sandwich, the notice being dated, Sandwich, November 13, 1847. The committee found that the Barnstable District Society was in error in condemning Dr. Bigelow; that their office was only to bring charges; that Dr. Bigelow had pursued such a course as naturally led to the belief that he had held a professional consultation with Wakefield, that he had given countenance, however unintentionally, to an irregular practitioner. The committee thought that the Barnstable District should rescind that part of its resolutions containing the offensive reflections on Dr. Bigelow's conduct and that Dr. Bigelow should address a letter to the corresponding secretary of the society stating the error into which he fell regarding Mr. Wakefield and disavowing any intent to abet or assist that gentleman in his professional capacity.

The affair came to a settlement finally by a letter addressed to the corresponding secretary by Dr. Bigelow under date of January 28, 1853. Some extracts may be of interest:



"Dear Sir;

I find that through inadvertence I have not complied with the requisition of a committee of the counsellors of the Mass. Medical Society in respect to my association with an irregular practitioner at Osterville some time ago. I am very happy to do so now. The following are, I believe, the statements desired by that committee, and which I have already made in substance to the Society, and to the committee of the counsellors, in respect to Mr. Wakefield who is now a promising medical student of Harvard University."

(Note: A. J. Wakefield received an M. D. from Harvard in 1855 and was admitted a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society from Hopkinton in the same year.)

"1. I held no medical consultation whatever with Mr. Wakefield.

2. I was not cognizant of the fact that Mr. Wakefield was practising medicine irregularly at that time, as it seems he then was. Some of the Barns. Dist. Med. Soc. think I knew it. But I pass over the point of my knowledge as unimportant, because whatever I thought he was, I did not consult with him; and proceed to show how far circumstances led me to aid and abet him.

3. In accepting Mr. Wakefield as my driver from Sandwich to Osterville (eight miles I believe); in being in contact with him during a part of my stay there (he being a friend of the family, his mother residing directly opposite the house); in replying to an enquiry of the wife of the patient, as I distinctly did, that I did not desire that they should now call a medical man, because there was, when I left, no need of a physician in addition to the minute medical directions which I gave and afterwards continued to give her; and because a physician could not possibly reach there before my departure; in being driven back to the railroad by this young man; in all this, I made a mistake in professional etiquette; perhaps attenuated by the circumstances, but nevertheless a mistake. I violated a bylaw of the Mass. Med. Society in giving people some reason to suppose that I did aid and abet an irregular practitioner, when I really had no intention of doing so."

"I may be pardoned if I venture to say that these resolutions of the Barns. Dist. Med. Soc'y did not strike me as being what is commonly called polite. They were perhaps a little unparliamentary in some parts; but I attributed this to the zeal of the persons who drew them up; who seemed to pay particular attention to making them strong . . . their indiscretion seems to have sprung in part from a good motive. I shall not object to the resolutions if the Barnstable Dist. Med. Soc'y are satisfied with them."

The long quarrel with homeopathic practitioners, which was to end in 1877 by the last expulsion of two fellows who admitted that they practised according to the tenets of this so-called school of medicine, began in 1850 when Dr. Benoni Carpenter of Pawtucket moved the following resolutions at the February meeting of the council:

"Resolved, That all homoeopathic practitioners are, or should be, denominated irregular practitioners, and, according to the By-Laws of this Society



made and provided, ought to be expelled from membership. *Resolved*, That Ira Barrows, of Norton, now a member of this Society, ought to be, and by vote of this Society is, expelled from membership, for the following reasons: 1. For being guilty of dishonorable conduct; 2. For being the maker and vender, at sundry different times, of certain and several quack medicines; 3. For being an irregular practitioner, having adopted the homoeopathic or infinitesimal or loaf-sugar system."

On motion by Dr. Jacob Bigelow the first resolve was laid on the table, and on motion by Dr. J. B. S. Jackson the second was referred to a committee of three, Dr. Caleb Swan of Easton, Dr. Randall of Rehoboth and Dr. Phelps of Attleborough. The committee reported at the next meeting. Dr. D. H. Storer moved that the council propose to the society the expulsion of Dr. Barrows on the ground of "gross immorality," in having broken his solemn pledge given to Dr. Carpenter. Here we have an interpretation of "gross immorality," not exactly the meaning of the term at the present time. Dr. Carpenter acted as prosecuting officer and Dr. Barrows — present by invitation — defended himself, whereupon Dr. Storer's motion was passed unanimously by the council. At the next annual meeting of the society Dr. Charles Wild of Brookline took the floor in defence of Dr. Barrows; the matter was referred to an adjourned meeting on October 2, 1851, when Dr. Wild spoke for four hours, a length not often exceeded, in these days, outside the United States Senate. He was answered by Dr. Carpenter, and then Dr. Storer's motion, previously adopted by the council, was passed and Dr. Barrows was thereby expelled. Barrows brought suit against Luther V. Bell, D. Humphreys Storer and Benoni Carpenter, the committee which had prosecuted him; the council accepted a report of a committee appointed to consider the petition of the above committee that they might be indemnified for the expenses incurred in defending the suits, and granted them such financial assistance by negotiating a loan.

The charges against Dr. Barrows were so varied that we are not justified in assuming that his practising homeopathy was the determining factor in the expulsion. The four-hour speech of Dr. Wild has not been preserved so that we do not know on what grounds the defence was based. It is proper to state at this point that the by-laws of the society in 1850 made no reference to the manner in which a candidate for fellowship practised his art. For the first time such a reference appears in the by-laws of 1860, to wit:





"No person shall hereafter be admitted a member of the Society who professes to cure diseases by Spiritualism, Homoeopathy or Thompsonianism."

In the by-laws of 1874 (Chap. I, lines 15-19) this provision had become

"that he does not profess to cure diseases by, nor intend to practise spiritualism, homoeopathy, allopathy, Thompsonianism, eclecticism, or any other irregular or exclusive system, generally recognized as such by the profession or declared so by the Councillors of said Society;"

At the next revision of the by-laws in 1881 the wording of this clause is the same; there was no change in the revisions of 1887 and 1893, therefore candidates who practised any of these forms of medicine took their fate in their own hands when they applied for fellowship. In later years this clause has read:

"that they do not practice any exclusive system of medicine or practice medicine in a manner contrary to the code of ethics of this society,"

leaving the candidate to settle with his own conscience whether the kind of medicine he practises is "exclusive" or not. Two men who admitted that they were homeopaths were expelled at the annual meeting, June 13, 1877; this was the last time that anyone was turned out of the society because of the cult he practised. At this same meeting two other men were expelled, one an Eclectic, for consulting with irregular practitioners.

Returning to the minutes of the council there is a record in 1841 that one John Starkweather of Upton asked for leave to withdraw from the society because of physical infirmity. A committee appointed to investigate the doctor reported that

"what with his business *proper*, as a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and his business *improper*, he rides more miles than any of his brethren of the vicinage."

He offered to cure disease by a medicine, the composition of which he kept secret, called "Hepatic Elixir, a new remedy for jaundice, dyspepsia, indigestion, weakness, female obstructions, etc." Starkweather was requested to appear before the committee and before the society and defend himself. He did not and was expelled by a vote of 148 out of 158 members present and voting, at the annual meeting, May 25, 1842.

In February, 1845 a fellow from Wenham was excused from a charge of violating articles of the by-laws because he advertised, recommended and sold secret medicines; used "Page's Vegetable Syrup" and wrote a letter to the proprietor of that compound

recommending it. It was shown that the letter was published without his knowledge and consent. No action was taken. At the annual meeting in 1855 two men were expelled, one for having been repeatedly convicted of crime, under the laws of the land, and the other for performing abortion.

A movement, started in 1849, resulted in the selection of the councilors of the society by a truly representative system of choice by the district societies, according to the numbers of their fellows instead of by election by the society itself. An act of the Legislature in 1850 made this possible. As early as the annual meeting in 1851 Dr. H. I. Bowditch had introduced a resolution that "hereafter all matters may be referred to the Counsellors or the District Societies for ultimate decision." A committee on infractions of the by-laws consisting of Dr. John Jeffries, Dr. C. E. Buckingham and Dr. J. C. Dalton had been appointed by the council at their meeting, May 30, 1850, relative to a memorial received from the Suffolk District that certain members of the society had violated the by-laws. When the committee had reported at the following meeting it was resolved by the council that the Suffolk District society be directed to examine each case of alleged infraction, to try each supposed offender, and to render such a verdict as they shall recommend for the adoption of the councilors. Apparently this attempt to place the responsibility of discipline on the shoulders of the district society in which the alleged offender had residence was not successful. The society had been going through a long-drawn-out case of charges against a member of the Worcester District society made by that society and referred to the parent society by the council, necessitating three adjourned meetings of the parent body in the spring of 1852. There was doubt whether the society had the power to punish or expel this member under the terms of its by-laws and constitution and the assistance of legal counsel had been invoked.

To clarify the situation it was agreed at the adjourned meeting of June 2, 1852 to alter the provisions of the by-laws to the following effect:

"Any complaint against any Fellow for a breach of the laws of the Society shall be brought before its annual meeting by the Counsellors, and a day shall be fixed for an adjourned meeting of the Society, at which an investigation and a decision may be made; and of the time and place of said adjourned meeting, and the charges against him, the accused shall be duly notified by the Secretary, and an opportunity shall be given him for a defence."



This is the forerunner of the board of trial, which appears first in the by-laws of 1856, when it had become evident that with a society that was all the time increasing its membership matters of discipline could not well be handled by the society at large.

At this adjourned meeting of 1852 the different misdemeanors for which fellows might be punished were specified:

"1. For any gross and notorious immorality, and for any crime of which he may have been convicted. 2. For any attempt to overturn or destroy the Society. 3. For the breach of any By-Laws of the Society, for which censure, expulsion, or deprivation of privileges, is made the penalty. 4. For furnishing to any person, or presenting in his own behalf, a false certificate of character and studies as a student of medicine, tending to deceive the public or the Censors of the Society. 5. For any conduct unbecoming and unworthy an honorable physician, and member of this Society."

At the annual meeting of the society in Springfield, June 27, 1855 Dr. William E. Coale of Boston read a communication from the Suffolk District Medical Society relative to the defects in the by-laws on the subject of expulsion of members, and this matter and the articles of the by-laws relating to the admission of fellows were referred to a committee of five consisting of W. E. Coale and H. W. Williams of Boston; Ebenezer Alden of Randolph; A. Mackie of New Bedford; and E. Huntington of Lowell. The committee reported to an adjourned meeting July 11 of the same year, proposing nine sections defining how charges should be brought before a court to try them. The succeeding meeting of the council, to which the report had been referred, considered it. Dr. D. King opposed the provisions of the report and offered a substitute; finally the matter was given to another committee, namely, Jacob Bigelow, Boston; D. King, Taunton; E. Jarvis, Dorchester; A. A. Gould, Boston; and J. C. Dalton, Lowell. The alterations recommended by the last committee were adopted by the council and put into effect at an adjourned meeting of the society, May 26, 1856. The section adopted was called "XL. OF TRIALS FOR OFFENCES." It is in effect the same as the provisions of our by-laws today as regards boards of trial. Being rather long it would be inadvisable to quote it here. Section 1 provides that when charges of infraction of the by-laws shall be duly made against any fellow of the society, the president shall thereupon select five of the commissioners of trials to constitute a board of trial for the pending case. The president is to appoint the time and place for the trial, notify the commissioners appointed, the



complainants and the accused; the secretary of the society to act as secretary of the board. In this original by-law it was provided that the accused should be entitled to a revision of his trial by the councilors; later this was changed and the board of trial reported its verdict directly to the society. If the accused party failed to appear at the time and place appointed for the trial he was considered as admitting the truth of the charges. Members of the society might be heard as advocates on either side at a trial but legal counsel was debarred. Commissioners of trials were to be elected by the district societies at their annual meetings, as they are today, one for each district. The amended by-laws were adopted and ordered published at an adjourned meeting held on October 8, 1856.

It seems worth while to record the notes of the proceedings of the first board of trial as set down at the end of the manuscript minutes of the annual meeting of the society, May 26, 1858. Here they are, the society at this time having delegated its authority to the board of trial, for no formal vote was taken by the society on the verdict of the board:

"A Board of Trial met at Lowell August 4, 1858, to hear and try the following charges preferred against Dr. Henry M. Hooke of Lowell by the Middlesex North District Medical Society.

1. For infraction of the 10th By-Law of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in offering to the public, while exercising the duties of a physician, medicines the composition of which he keeps secret, thereby offering to cure disease by such secret medicines; in establishing or causing to be established for his benefit, and supporting a certain Nostrum and Drug Shop, on Merrimack Street, in Lowell, kept by a Mrs. Claves or Mrs. Lane, at which shop only, his prescriptions can be made up, the said prescriptions being written purposely so as to be unintelligible to all other Apothecaries; in publishing his card in, and writing medical articles as advertisements for a notoriously vile and quackish paper called "*The Medical Expositor*," the editor and proprietor of which is, and has been for years, as is well known, an irregular practitioner, who has recently been convicted by a jury for libel against a worthy citizen of this place, and paid the penalty thereof, by three months imprisonment in the House of Correction at Cambridge.
2. For conduct unbecoming and unworthy an honorable physician and member of this Society, in rudely and peremptorily refusing to pay his arrearages and annual assessments due the Society, when called for; in manifesting hostility to the Society and its interests, by speaking of it in terms of disparagement and contempt; in frequent violations of the recognized code of Medical Ethics, in visiting, advertising and prescribing for patients, while under the charge of other physicians, without the consent or knowledge of said physicians; in false and dishonorable conduct in consultations, by which he has impaired or de-



stroyed the confidence of the patient and friends in the consulting or attending physician, with whom he had met; and in other irregular and disreputable acts, equally adverse to the welfare of the public and to the interest and dignity of the profession.

*Voted*, That the charges preferred against Dr. Henry M. Hooke, of Lowell, by that Society (i.e. Middlesex North District Society) have been substantiated, and the said Henry M. Hooke be, and hereby is, expelled from the Massachusetts Medical Society.

(Signed) John B. Alley  
*Recording Secretary."*

There is a record of another meeting of a board of trial, February 15, 1860, and of other sessions of the same board, March 7 and 14 in that year, when another fellow of the Middlesex North District was tried. This record was written at the end of the manuscript records of the annual meeting of the society in 1859 and signed by the secretary. It was voted by the board that the member in question "has been highly reprehensible, and that he deserves and hereby receives the censure of this board." He was not expelled. He had published fraudulent advertisements in a Lowell newspaper and furnished, unintentionally, a false certificate of character and studies, besides doing "serious injury to the general interest of the Medical Profession."

According to the records of the boards of trial, kept in separate volumes and preserved in the files, sessions were held in 1867, 1868 (two), 1870 and 1871.

The movement which resulted in the appointment of a standing committee on ethics and discipline originated in two preambles and four resolutions that were introduced by Dr. B. E. Cotting at a council meeting on June 6, 1871. This was the year after the quarrel with the American Medical Association, instigated by a protest to the association by the Gynecological Society of Boston, against accepting delegates from the Massachusetts Medical Society to the annual meeting of the association, on the ground that that society harbored irregular practitioners within its ranks. This has been described in Chapter IV. Dr. Cotting was at this time a councilor and a member of the standing committee on publications; he had held the offices of recording and corresponding secretary, was to be vice-president the following year and president from 1874 to 1876. In 1871 he was well qualified to understand the society. The purport of the preambles he presented were that the society had always endeavored to make "a just discrimination be-



tween such as are duly educated and properly qualified for the duties of their profession, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer medicine"; that it is alleged that some fellows, in opposition to the spirit and intent of its organization consort with those whose acts tend "to disorganize or to destroy" the society; therefore the resolutions:

1. "*Resolved*, That if any fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society shall be or shall become a member of any society which adopts as its principle in the treatment of disease any exclusive theory or dogma (as, for example, those specified in Art. I. of the By-Laws of this Society), or himself shall practise or profess to practise, or shall aid or abet any person or persons practising or professing to practise according to any such theory or dogma, he shall be deemed to have violated the By-Laws of the Massachusetts Medical Society by "conduct unbecoming and unworthy an honorable physician and member of this Society." By-Laws VII, Section 5.
2. *Resolved*, In case the Society concur with the Councillors in the foregoing resolution, that the President of the Society shall appoint a committee of five fellows (to hold office for one year and until others are appointed) to bring before a Board of Trial any fellow who, three months from this date or after, shall be found chargeable with the offence set forth in the foregoing resolution.
3. *Resolved*, That after concurrence by the Society, the foregoing preamble and resolutions shall be printed, and a copy sent to every fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

The resolutions were adopted by the society at its annual meeting June 8, 1871 "with but one dissenting vote," and the following were appointed by the president as the first committee on ethics and discipline: Luther Parks, Boston, chairman; R. L. Hodgdon, Arlington; Thomas H. Gage, Worcester; Asa Millet, Bridgewater; B. B. Breed, Lynn. Some remarks made by "Dr. DeWolf" [Thaddeus Kingsley DeWolf, Chester Center] in seconding the resolutions before the society, as entered on the manuscript minutes, are pertinent here. He said that:

"as a member of the committee he felt the resolutions needed little explanation, for they explain themselves. It had been the conviction of many members of the Society living in western Massachusetts that the action contemplated in the resolutions should have been taken long ago. There are many practitioners, once respectable members of the Society, who have become irregular in practice and disreputable, but who rely on their membership still as a protecting wing. Such a condition should not continue. It has been objected that the resolutions do not give extended authority. But let it be remembered that what is every man's business is nobody's business, and the objection which an individual member of the Society would feel in preferring charges against a fellow is removed by the action of the contemplated committee. . . ."





At the annual meeting of the society in 1873 a long report was made by the secretary as to the doings of the committee on ethics and discipline and boards of trial for the previous year. The society accepted by vote the report of a board of trial in the case of seven fellows of the Suffolk District, expelling them for

“conduct unbecoming and unworthy an honorable physician and member of this Society, to wit: by practising or professing to practice according to a certain exclusive theory or dogma (or certain exclusive theories or dogmas) and by belonging to a society whose purpose is at variance with the principles of, and tends to disorganize, the Massachusetts Medical Society.”

The following year, 1874, the society adopted a revision of the by-laws in which the committee on ethics and discipline had a place as Chapter VII, and boards of trial as Chapter XXXI. In the fall the committee on ethics and discipline began to keep records of their meetings. This first entry in their record book shows the membership of the committee when appointed a standing committee June 2, 1874; it exhibits a leniency and reasonableness in offering to accept a resignation of the fellow accused, before proceeding to a board of trial:

“The committee met at the house of Dr. H. W. Williams, No. 15 Arlington St., Boston, on Thursday, Oct. 29, 1874, and was called to order at 2.30 o'clock P.M. by the chairman Dr. Asa Millet. Present, Drs. Asa Millet, T. H. Gage, C. E. Buckingham, H. W. Williams, and Alfred Hosmer, of the committee, and Dr. Cotting, the President and Dr. Draper the recording secretary of the Society. The recording secretary was chosen to act as secretary of the committee. The committee having been called together to consider sundry cases of Fellows against whom informal charges had been made, it was *Voted*, To take up for consideration each of the cases separately.

The case of Dr. George Howard Jones, of Boston, was called first. Dr. Henry Tuck, of Boston, being introduced as a witness, said that it had long been a matter of common report, and he believed it to be true, that Dr. G. H. Jones was connected with an irregular medical establishment known as the “Peabody Medical Institute,” situated in Bowdoin St., in Boston. He (Dr. Tuck) had seen Dr. Jones enter the building familiarly by a latch key. Dr. Jones, the accused fellow, being present by appointment, was asked if the statement was true that he was connected with the Peabody Medical Institute, whereupon Dr. Jones admitted that he was so connected; that he was employed by one Dr. Hayes, an irregular practitioner and the owner of the establishment and that his association with Dr. Hayes had continued during the last two years. He further said that his engagement was only temporary and would shortly expire. Dr. Jones having retired it was unanimously *Voted*, That the chairman inform Dr. G. H. Jones that, in the opinion of the committee, his conduct has been unworthy and unbecoming an honorable physician, and invite his resignation forthwith. Dr. Jones being recalled, was informed of the action of the

committee. He then withdrew. It was subsequently *Voted*, That the committee prefer charges against Dr. George Howard Jones, provided his resignation is not received within a reasonable time."

"The cases of Drs. H. C. Clapp and H. L. Chase were next considered. These individuals had been notified of this meeting and of their privilege to be present, but neither appeared. It was shown to be a matter of common report and belief that these men were homeopaths and that they had held offices in homeopathic societies. After a free informal discussion upon the cases in question, it was *Voted*, That the secretary transmit to each of the Fellows named a copy of the following: Upon representation made to the Committee on Ethics and Discipline, it is the unanimous opinion of that committee that Dr. — ought by his obligations to the Massachusetts Medical Society in signing the By-Laws, to resign his membership in the Society.

*Voted*, That the chairman appoint a member of the committee as Prosecuting Officer, whenever an impending trial shall make it necessary.

Adjourned.

F. W. Draper,  
*Secretary."*

The reader will be interested to know that not one of the three fellows, whose cases were considered at this first meeting of the new standing committee on ethics and discipline, sent in his resignation; boards of trial were held and all three were expelled, as noted in the minutes of the annual meeting of the society, held June 7, 1875.

Under the terms of the by-laws the findings of a board of trial were subject to a revision, or, if he desired, the accused might have a new trial on permission of the council at its next stated meeting after the verdict had been rendered. It was customary to report the findings of the boards of trial to the next annual meeting of the society and to have them confirmed. It was only after 1897 that the secretary of the society, who had become both secretary to the committee on ethics and discipline and to the boards of trial, was directed by the by-laws to report the findings of a board to the next annual meeting of the society, and then the society, rather than the board of trial, took final action on expulsion.

By this plan any fellow, or any of his friends, who took exception to a verdict by a board, might appear and oppose a final vote by the society.

The present rules governing boards of trials, as contained in Chapter VIII, Section 1, of the by-laws, are as follows:

"Whenever the president shall receive from the committee on ethics and discipline a recommendation that a fellow be tried by a board of trial he shall forthwith appoint five of the commissioners of trial who shall constitute a board of trial to consider the charges; he shall also designate a time and place





for the meeting of the board and shall cause due notice thereof to be given to the complainants and to the accused, and to all members of the district society of which the accused is a member. At hearings given by boards of trial, fellows may appear in the interests of the accused but legal counsel shall not be admitted to the hearing. The non-appearance of the accused or failure on his part to be represented at the trial shall be considered *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the charges, and a verdict may be rendered accordingly. In case of conviction, the board shall recommend such sentence as it shall deem best. (See Chapter I, Section 9.) The secretary shall enter upon the records the proceedings of the board of trial, and shall report them to the next annual meeting of the society for final action thereon. The secretary shall notify the accused of the findings of the board of trial; he shall also notify him of the action of the society thereon, and shall notify the several district societies of the sentence imposed.

It shall be considered a duty of any fellow to appear as a witness before a board of trial if summoned by the committee on ethics and discipline. No fellow shall be relieved of this duty without an excuse satisfactory to the board of trial."

Chapter I, Section 9, referred to above, runs thus:

"In appropriate instances fellows may be admonished, censured, or expelled from the society. Recommendations in such instances shall be made by the committee on ethics and discipline under the provisions of Chapter VII, Section 4; and in accordance with such recommendations the cases shall be disposed of by the president by (a) Admonition, (b) Reference to the council, (c) Reference to a board of trial as provided for in Chapter VIII, Section 1. Upon conviction by a board of trial of charges duly made, as provided for in Chapter VIII, Section 1, fellows may be censured, or expelled from the society under the provisions of said chapter for wilful disobedience of law; attempts to destroy the society or to injure its usefulness; advertising nostrums for sale, or otherwise offering them to the public; professing to cure disease by secret remedies or secret methods of treatment; gross violation of the by-laws or code of ethics; presenting false certificates, or statements of character, or of educational acquirements, and for any other conduct unworthy of honorable physicians."

The committee on ethics and discipline has included in its membership since these early days some of the ablest members of the society, all men of high purpose and ready to do their best, even at the sacrifice of time and effort, to keep up the morale of the old society. According to the by-laws which were revised as regards matters of discipline by this committee, in 1920, the committee

"shall consider charges submitted in writing against any fellow alleging infraction of the by-laws, failure to conform to the code of ethics, or any other conduct unworthy of honorable physicians; shall call to the attention of such fellow the nature of the charges and request an explanation; and in due



course, if deemed advisable, it shall report the charges to the president with recommendations."

The committee may, on its own initiative, investigate any case of apparent or alleged misconduct of a fellow. Fellows may be admonished, censured or expelled from the society, the recommendations originating anywhere, being filtered and investigated by the committee on ethics and disposed of, on recommendation of the committee, by the president by admonition, reference to the council or to a board of trial.

The machinery works smoothly. Complaints usually come to the secretary of the society, who is also secretary of the committee on ethics; the chairman is always within telephone call and the committee can meet at the usual notice. Fellows are often given leave to resign, following the precedent laid down in the first days of the existence of the committee; when the case against them is very obvious they commonly take advantage of the opportunity. Thus the society is rid of undesirable membership with the least notoriety. Boards of trial have been relatively infrequent in the later years, the records containing only sixteen since 1882, a period of forty years.

The first reference to a code of ethics occurs in a vote passed by the council October 3, 1877. It reads as follows:

"The Committee on By-Laws, through Dr. Hosmer, offered the following for the adoption of the Counsellors: *Voted*, That it is not legal for a District Medical Society to recognize and adopt as a part of its by-laws or otherwise, any other Code of Medical Ethics than that of the Massachusetts Medical Society. After some discussion the resolution was adopted."

At the following meeting the Berkshire District Medical Society sent in a communication asking that the vote passed at the last meeting be reconsidered, or that the council adopt a definite code of ethics for the entire society. Accordingly it was voted to have the chair appoint a committee of three to draft a code of ethics, if deemed advisable, and to report. The president at that time, William Cogswell, appointed this committee: B. E. Cotting, L. S. Fox, J. F. A. Adams. The committee submitted a report on June 11, 1878, with a code which gave specific directions as to conduct under different conditions; various sections were objected to and the whole matter was referred back to the committee, which was enlarged by the addition of J. P. Reynolds and H. J. Bigelow. On October 1, 1879 Dr. Cotting presented a "Draft Code,"



together with resolutions, in case the code should be adopted by the council, the report being signed by all the members of the committee except Dr. Bigelow, who submitted a minority report, dealing only with general principles of conduct. The minority report was adopted at the next meeting, on February 4, 1880. As printed in the pamphlet with the by-laws in 1881 we find it to consist of a preamble on the object of the code and eight sections dealing respectively with The Relation of the Physician to Medical Science; The Relation of the Physician to Medical Business; The Relation of the Physician to his Patients; The Relation of the Physician to other Practitioners, and to their Patients; The Relation of the Physician to Quackery; Consultations; Fees and Seniority.

It was a relatively short code and had to do with general principles, as just stated. Dr. Bigelow wrote in his report presenting the code:

"A concise code, if comprehensive, is best adapted to the purposes of this society, whether to convey information to those not familiar with its rules, or to secure the good conduct of those who evade them."

It was not until June 10, 1884 that the society acted on the code of ethics that had been accepted by the council four years before; then it was formally adopted. The code has remained much the same up to the present time. It was revised and rewritten by the committee on ethics and discipline for the society and adopted by that body on June 9, 1920, the committee agreeing independently with the views of Dr. H. J. Bigelow, namely, that general rules for guidance are preferable to a detailed code covering all the relations of the practitioner of medicine to his many-sided surroundings, such as is the code of the American Medical Association. The code is not long; it is printed for the benefit of those who may not be familiar with it.

## CODE OF ETHICS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Adopted, June 9, 1920*

THE Code is intended to establish certain general principles and rules of action for the fellows of the society.

### I

Physicians should encourage sound medical learning, and uphold in the community correct views of the powers and limitations of the science and art of medicine.

## II

A spirit of competition considered honorable in purely business transactions cannot exist among physicians without diminishing their usefulness and lowering the dignity and standing of the profession.

## III

The first duty of physicians is to their patients, who have a right to expect that their diseases will be thoroughly and confidentially investigated and properly treated, and that their mental peculiarities or infirmities will receive charitable consideration.

## IV

Physicians in their professional relations should be governed by strict rules of honor and courtesy. Their conduct toward each other should be such as to secure mutual confidence and good will.

They should take no steps with a view directly or indirectly to divert to themselves the patients or practice of others.

Except in case of pressing emergency they should not consent to take charge of the patient of another physician unless the regular attendant has been duly notified.

If called upon to take charge in cases of accident or other emergency they should relinquish their care of the case as soon as the regular attendant is able to assume responsibility.

## V

Consultations should be encouraged in cases of doubt or of unusual responsibility. The aim should be to give patients the advantage of collective skill. Discussions should be confidential. Care should be taken to avoid impairing in any way the confidence of the patient in his attending physicians.

## VI

Fee-tables have a local application only, and are designed to indicate reasonable charges for services. But with the understanding and consent of their patients beforehand, physicians may place any value upon their services deemed proper.

## VII

The distinction between legitimate medicine and quackery should be clearly maintained. Physicians should not advertise their methods of practice nor have an interest, commercial or otherwise, in secret remedies.

In the olden time the activities of the standing committee on ethics and discipline had been conducted under a veil of secrecy. It was a part of the custom of the time to let only the elect know what was being done by those on the inside, so to speak. Under the mistaken idea that because it would be manifestly imprudent and unfair to disclose the names of those fellows who had transgressed the rules of proper conduct, or were alleged to have done





so, it was not thought necessary to report to the council what the committee had been doing. As a result there were long stretches of time when it had done nothing, if we may judge by the record book. From time to time an especially flagrant instance of infraction of the by-laws roused the committee to action. Informally many queries were answered by members of the committee and many minor disputes were adjusted without formal meetings. The first formal report to the council since the early days of the committee in the seventies of the nineteenth century was at the annual meeting of the council, June 9, 1914, presented by Dr. J. Arthur Gage of Lowell, the efficient chairman. Since that time annual reports have been the rule, to the great advantage of the morale of the society, it would seem, for attention was thus called to the existence of the committee and the feeling was spread abroad that anyone who had knowledge of wrong-doing had only to call the attention of the committee to the matter in order to receive consideration and investigation. In this first report in 1914 it was stated that the committee had held four meetings during the year with full attendance; that two fellows had been found guilty of practices incompatible with the ethics of the society, and their resignations had been accepted by the council at the instigation of the committee; seven fellows had been admonished by the president, on the suggestion of the committee, for neglect of proper care in the treatment of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, the committee having indorsed recommendations for a change in the state law as to this disease that had been referred to the committee on state and national legislation. Many minor charges against fellows had been considered. No instances of fellows signing birth certificates for midwives, as alleged was the case by Dr. Hugh Cabot, had been reported to the committee.

The report of the committee on ethics and discipline to the council at the annual meeting in June, 1916 is not without interest to the student of the working of such a committee, as it gives a brief sketch of the past history of the committee and a full account of the Richard C. Cabot case, which caused a commotion of considerable proportions throughout the society at the time. The report is given here *in extenso*:

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE.

1915-1916.

The work of this Committee has largely increased in recent years. During the 42 years that the Committee on Ethics and Discipline has existed, 53 meetings have been held. Of these, 36 occurred during the first 39 years, an average of less than one each year; while during the last three years 17 meetings have been held. Coincidentally, there has been an increase in the number of cases affecting the welfare of our Society that have been referred to the Committee, and complaints have been received not only from members, but from various State boards and even from the laity. This increase of work has not only demanded more of the members' time, but has presented many new and difficult problems for solution, and has been made possible only by the efficient co-operation of our Secretary.

In reviewing the work of the Committee since its inception, we find that it has dealt with cases of advertising and endorsing patent medicines, false representations as to qualifications for admission, consultations with irregular practitioners, joining other medical societies, immoral personal conduct, doing of abortions, and failure to obey the State health laws.

The question of what constitutes improper advertising has been one that has called for the serious consideration and discussion of the Committee. To-day there is a vast amount of advertising by members of this Society, not only covering the whole field of the sanatoria, but specifying specialties and methods of practice; while the forms of indirect and illustrated advertising are legion.

Whether the Society should establish a guiding principle and policy in regard to this matter is open to debate, but it seems irrefutable that what is tolerated in one case should not be condemned in another.

During the last two years your Committee has had to consider a number of complaints against members for advertising their practice in the public press, and has held that such practice, if persisted in, might well constitute cause for resignation from the Society.

Charges that a member of this Society advised and offered to assist in procuring an abortion were tabled because witnesses would not testify before the Committee.

Charges preferred by the State Board of Registration in Medicine against a Fellow for aiding an irregular practitioner to practise medicine were referred to the President for discipline.

In a second case of like character the evidence seemed to exonerate the doctor from wrong intentions and upon his disavowal of intentional misconduct and assurances of future care, it was reported to the President and placed on file.

But one case charging neglect in ophthalmia neonatorum has been presented since our last report, apparently indicating that the previous action taken by your Committee has stimulated more prompt and careful handling of these cases.

Charges were preferred against a Fellow by a patient, accompanied by a request that he be allowed to have a public hearing where he might present witnesses under oath, and also by a petition to the same effect signed by 25 fellow citizens. After investigation, the Committee found no evidence of dis-

honorable conduct, and found no probable cause to institute trial. In denying the petition for a hearing the Committee emphasized the fact that its function is that of a grand jury and not that of a board of trial before which cases are to be tried.

Early in February, 1915, the attention of the Committee was called to certain public utterances appearing in the press reflecting upon the medical profession, and formal complaints were received from individuals, and a District Medical Society. At a later meeting in February, 1915, the subject was fully considered, and it was voted that the Secretary should write to Dr. Richard C. Cabot, asking whether he made the remarks ascribed to him, and whether on other occasions he had publicly made similar statements reflecting on the ethical standards of the medical profession. His reply was published in the *BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL* of Feb. 18, 1915. (See letter, which follows, to *Boston Herald*.)

On Dec. 7, 1915, the Committee on Ethics and Discipline voted that a letter be sent to Dr. Richard C. Cabot, asking him if his remarks at the Evans Memorial, Nov. 16, 1915, were correctly reported, and asking for his position in the matter. The letter is as follows:

December 10, 1915.

Dr. Richard C. Cabot,  
1 Marlborough Street, Boston,  
Dear Doctor Cabot:—

On Tuesday, December 7, the Committee on Ethics and Discipline of the Massachusetts Medical Society was called upon to consider certain complaints which had been made by different individuals and which were based upon recent press reports purporting to represent correctly your views of some aspects of medical practice. The meeting of the Committee was held immediately following a conference called by the President to consider these complaints, at which were present the President and three ex-presidents of the Society, together with the full membership of the Committee on Ethics and Discipline. At this conference it was brought out that a recent address of yours, as reported in the newspapers, had elicited numerous unfavorable opinions not only from the profession, but also from the laity, and it was further indicated that there is a prevailing impression that comments reflecting seriously upon the honor and intelligence of your fellow practitioners are allowed by you to circulate freely without due regard for the possible harm which may ensue from their publication.

The Committee has at hand clippings from various newspapers of or about the date of November 17, which contain accounts substantially agreeing in detail, of an address delivered by you at the Evans Memorial, November 16, 1915; but with respect to the accuracy of these accounts the Committee has no information whatever.

Knowing that physicians are often misquoted in the papers, and with a desire to clear up certain points of doubt in regard to your real attitude, the Committee would be glad to hear from you either by letter or in conference at a time of mutual convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Walter L. Burrage,  
*Secretary of the Committee, under the By-Laws of the Society.*





In reply the following was received:

Boston, December 10, 1915.

Dear Dr. Burrage:—

I enclose a copy of a letter which I sent to the *Boston Herald* the day after its very false and misleading report of my address appeared. I have not seen any of the reports of the other papers, but if they are as false as the *Herald*, they no doubt will have given just offense to physicians.

I wish you would ask Dr. F. B. Percy of Brookline, or Dr. F. L. Richardson of the Evans Memorial, both of whom were present, whether anything that I said seemed to them of the character which has been complained of.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard C. Cabot.

The letter to the *Boston Herald* reads as follows:

(Published Feb. 18, 1915, in the *BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL*, but not in the *Boston Herald*.)

To the Editor of the *Herald*:

I wish to protest against the headlines set over the very inaccurate account of my talk at Evans Memorial last evening. The mistakes in the body of the account are not, most of them, very vital, but to represent me as saying that "nine-tenths of doctors guess," is in the first place false, as I never said it, and in the second place meaningless. If it means that nine-tenths of doctors sometimes guess, it must be true of ten-tenths. If it means that nine-tenths of them habitually guess or guess nine-tenths of the time, as many would suppose on reading the headline, it is in my belief entirely untrue, and very unjust to the body of the medical profession.

I am not trying to contrast hospital physicians with other physicians, but to contrast the treatment which any physician can give when he has the advantages of hospital laboratories and instruments of precision, with the treatment which that same physician or any other could give without these aids. It is a difference not of personalities but of methods, and I protest against reports which make it appear falsely, that I think ill of the efforts and fidelity of most physicians.

(Signed) Richard C. Cabot, M.D.

At a meeting of the Committee on December 21, 1915, the following letter was approved, and it was unanimously voted to send the same to Dr. Cabot, as expressing the Committee's attitude:

Boston, December 21, 1915.

Richard C. Cabot, M.D.,

Boston, Mass.,

Dear Dr. Cabot:—

Twice within the last year the Committee on Ethics and Discipline have received complaints from the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society in regard to your public utterances as spread over the country through the press. After mature deliberation and correspondence with you in regard to the matter, we feel that the complaints are justified.

The statements, as printed, lead the public to believe that the motives and practices of the majority of your fellow practitioners are unworthy, — a belief

that you yourself must admit to be incorrect, — and a disclaimer in the medical press does not correct the wrong impression obtained by the public. Therefore, such a course tends to do an injustice to those who, like yourself, are constantly striving to improve the public health, and does not meet with our approval.

We believe that any member of the profession desiring to improve existing conditions of practice, or to introduce entirely new methods of practice, should first present his views before the members of the profession, where his claims, if approved, can receive the endorsement of the Medical Society, or, if false, can be challenged and corrected. By such a method, authoritative statements can be made that will enlist the approval and coöperation of the public, and enhance both the influence of the medical profession and the confidence of the community. We feel that to present the public with information less well digested redounds to the injury of both parties.

Finally we wish to call your attention to the unselfish efforts of the profession at all times to instruct the public in regard to their health, and the oft-expressed opinion that we should carefully forego any statements that are likely to mislead the public.

*Signed by all the members of the Committee on Ethics and Discipline.*

A letter to Dr. Cabot in January, asking for a reply to the Committee's letter brought the following:

January 25, 1916.

Dear Dr. Gage: —

I had not expected that your Committee desired an answer from me. I should have supposed that the time for you to hear what I have to say was before you condemned me — not after!

But if you desire an answer you must tell me what it is that you charge me with. You have never yet made that clear. The document which you enclose refers to "a course" which you condemn. (Par. second.) *But you nowhere describe that course.*

1. Did you disapprove of my course in saying what I *did* say?

But that you don't know, and, I believe, have made no genuine effort to find out. You cannot, therefore, disapprove it.

2. Did you disapprove of what the newspapers printed?

So did I, but you know that I didn't say it. You cannot, therefore, disapprove it.

3. Did you disapprove of my not contradicting the newspaper report?

But I did all I could, or anyone could, to contradict it, and was refused publication in the daily press. I then contradicted the statement in the BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

You cannot disapprove this? What more could I do?

4. Did you disapprove my trying to introduce "entirely new methods of practice"?

But I referred to nothing not at least eight years in existence, and repeatedly described by me and others before medical audiences before it was heard by the laity.

Hence you can't disapprove of me here!



Whenever you will plainly state what you disapprove of, I will answer you fully, and will convince you that you have treated me with the grossest injustice. Luckily, you cannot hurt me in the least.

Yours cordially,  
Richard C. Cabot.

At a meeting of the Committee, February 2, it was voted to send the following letter to Dr. Cabot:

Dear Dr. Cabot:—

In reply to your letter of January 25, 1916, we wish to add the following: We have consulted the doctors to whom you referred us in your original letter and we have taken other measures to make ourselves acquainted with the import of your remarks and the impression they made upon the audience. Furthermore, we have in print the impressions you conveyed to the representatives of several of the Boston newspapers who reported your lecture, consequently we feel that we were amply justified in our conclusions, and we consider that more than one such talk constitutes "a course of action."

Your assumption that we intended to do you an injustice or to hurt you in the least is due, we think, to a misapprehension. What we intended to convey to you was the idea that a great many of your fellow practitioners felt that you had been unfair to them in your public utterances—which, if true, constitutes an injustice—and we hoped that a realization of this fact would lead you to confine your public utterances to statements well within the facts. In closing, we wish to state finally that our former letter expresses fully the convictions of the Committee, and we also wish to inform you that we feel it our duty to present these letters as a report on our action to the President and Council, to whom we are responsible. Whether you wish your correspondence to be included in the report we will leave to your decision.

Yours very truly,

J. A. Gage, *Chairman*.

The foregoing comprises the correspondence upon this subject and concludes this report of the Committee on Ethics and Discipline.

J. Arthur Gage, *Chairman*,  
J. W. Bartol,  
Henry Jackson,  
G. deN. Hough,  
S. B. Woodward.

At the end of the report of the committee on ethics and discipline for the year 1916–1917, presented at the annual meeting in June, 1917, is this statement:

"The committee wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of the secretary in systematizing the cases presented for consideration, and in preparing the new "form letter" which has proved already an important feature in facilitating the investigation of complaints and in increasing respect for the by-laws of our Society."

A copy of the Form Letter is printed here.



## FORM LETTER

**The Massachusetts Medical Society.**

BOSTON,.....19 .

.....M.D., Fellow of the Society.

DEAR DOCTOR:

The attention of the Committee on Ethics and Discipline of the Massachusetts Medical Society has been called to

Will you be good enough to give the Committee your version of the facts in the case. Please address the Committee, and send your answer to the Secretary.

Yours truly,

.....M.D.

*Secretary of the Committee on Ethics and Discipline,  
under Chap. VI, Sec. 3, of By-Laws.*

Address of Secretary.....

## FROM CHAPTER VII, SECTION 4, OF BY-LAWS

The committee on ethics and discipline shall consist of five fellows. It shall consider charges submitted in writing against any fellow alleging infraction of the by-laws, failure to conform to the code of ethics, or any other conduct unworthy of honorable physicians; shall call to the attention of such fellow the nature of the charges and request an explanation; and in due course, if deemed advisable, it shall report the charges to the president with recommendations. It may also, upon its own initiative, investigate any case of apparent or alleged misconduct of a fellow and if deemed advisable, report its findings to the president with recommendations. In cases coming to trial as provided for in Chapter VIII, Section 1, the chairman or some other member of the committee shall act as prosecuting officer.

For some time it had been apparent to the secretary that a printed query blank sent to a fellow who was rushing along with scant regard for the rights of others might cause him to take notice and question himself whether his action was ethical. The blank was perfected and submitted to the committee on ethics at its meeting on April 18, 1916, when it was adopted by vote. It seems to have had a remarkably salutary effect in the succeeding six years. By direction of the committee a form letter is sent promptly to a fellow against whom charges have been lodged. His explanation is then in order. If thought best he is asked to meet the complainant in the presence of the committee and the subject is aired; should his explanation be regarded as satisfactory both parties are notified of the action of the committee. The mere fact that a committee of the society is watching the actions of its members and the fellows know that this is so operates in many instances as a deterrent to those who plan high-handed deeds. At all events the form letter is a dignified means of acquiring needed information in the preliminary stages of complaints of unethical conduct; it not only calls attention to an important section of the by-laws but indicates that the section is enforced, negating a supposition only too prevalent, that the society being old is senile.



## CHAPTER XV

### MALPRACTICE DEFENCE

THE "Act for the Defence of Suits for Malpractice," adopted by the Massachusetts Medical Society, June 10, 1908, provides that active fellows of the society shall receive defence in the courts of the Commonwealth when they are accused of malpractice, without expense. The society, following the practice in twenty-seven other states where similar acts have been adopted by the state medical societies, pays the costs of defending suits but pays no damages, should any be awarded, the purpose of the act, besides actually helping a member who is unjustly made defendant in a suit, being to discourage such actions at law. The society does not insure, it fights. The fellow must put his case unreservedly in the hands of the society, which supplies the attorney, a man who has had much experience in court and stands at the head of the bar. The president and secretary form a board which determines what cases are to be defended; they accept nearly all the cases that are presented when there is no question that they are bona fide examples of malpractice and the applicants are in good standing.

Shortly I shall have something to say about the working of the act during the thirteen years it has been in operation. Now it may interest us to look at the beginnings of malpractice defence and the steps that led up to our act. In the council records of May 30, 1850 is this entry:

"The communication from the Southern District relative to trials for malpractice was referred to a committee of three, under the following vote offered by Dr. Crary [W. H. A. Crary of Fall River]: "Whereas, prosecutions for malpractice have of late become alarmingly frequent, so much so as to demand some decided action for our own defence, and the protection of our brethren. Therefore *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare and present to the Counsellors, at their next meeting, some plan whereby physicians or surgeons who may be prosecuted for malpractice shall be more fully protected than they are by our present jury trial system."

The following were appointed the committee: W. H. A. Crary, Fall River; Foster Hooper, Fall River; A. L. Peirson, Salem. At the October meeting in 1850 Dr. Peirson reported that no meeting of his committee had been held but some correspondence had taken



place between himself and the chairman but that no report could be presented at that time. At the February meeting in 1851 Dr. Peirson made a verbal report and the committee was discharged. What it was we do not know; that the committee had a difficult problem we are sure.

At the annual meeting of the council, June 22, 1852, Dr. John Ware read a letter relating to prosecutions for malpractice, which he had received, in confidence, with the request that he would lay it before the society. "*Voted*, That the letter be read before the society the following day." Accordingly it was read and on motion by Dr. Ware a committee of three "to prepare a report, pointing out the causes and the true remedy for the evil of which it complained" was appointed, the committee being A. L. Peirson, Samuel Parkman and C. P. Fiske. The letter read by Dr. Ware has not been preserved. The report of the committee on "The Causes and Prevention of Suits for Mal-Practice" appeared in ten octavo pages as an appendix to the Proceedings of the society at its annual meeting in 1853. It was signed by S. Parkman and Calvin P. Fiske and was read to the society by the former, poor Dr. Peirson having been killed in the railway wreck at Norwalk, Connecticut on May 6 of that year, while returning from a meeting of the American Medical Association at New York. An attempt will be made to abstract this document, which is too long to be given in full, for it contains much sage advice on the question at issue. After a preamble reciting what the committee set out to do, they state that they have attended to their duty

"and although unable to point out any method by which this Society may act authoritatively either for the prevention of such suits, or for the remuneration of such of its members as may suffer from their injustice; still, agreeing fully with the general views of the writer of the letter, they have thought that a full and candid discussion of the whole subject might not be without a good effect, as pointing out methods of individual action, and as explaining the exact ground upon which we stand. It is undoubtedly a very great grievance that a physician or surgeon, after having conscientiously and to the best of his abilities devoted himself to the cure or relief of his patient, should be subjected to a prosecution for damages, if the result of the case be contrary to the patient's wishes, or even his own hopes and predictions. To the medical man this appears peculiarly hard; for to his honor it may be truly said, that his profession differs from most callings that are pursued for a livelihood, in this, — that the pecuniary compensation for the services to be derived is so little prominent as to have no influence upon their commencement." . . . "A medical man, undertaking the treatment of any case, becomes responsible, not for the result, but that he will employ the best means, and neglect nothing by which this may be attained. And if he do so neglect, it is clear to the slightest



reflection that a remedy may be had against him in law, in the same manner as against an individual neglecting any other obligation whereby his employer incurs loss or damage. The medical profession could not with any justice claim exemption from those responsibilities which all the members of the community incur in every engagement mutually entered upon. Neither would it be possible for the law to provide for any other method of deciding cases of this nature than by the trial by jury; for though at first there appears to be an absurdity in twelve men, indifferently selected, deciding upon such questions as whether a particular fracture has been properly treated or not, the same objection may be made to a jury trial of many other questions on subjects apart from usual pursuits, and requiring particular study for their understanding. It appears but a natural demand to the medical man, that his treatment should be judged by his medical peers; but the patient might object that his claims might not have a fair hearing. One having an action for land damages against a railroad corporation would hardly be content to submit the decision to a jury of stockholders, although he might be very far from impeaching their integrity" . . .

"One circumstance, the chief cause of misunderstanding, one which is peculiar to the medical profession, is the nature of the subjects with which it deals. The results of many cases, both of accident and disease, are very far from a restoration of the patient to his previous condition; this is the consequence of the inevitable imperfection of our science; but it is easy to see that differences may readily arise between the medical man and his patient, as regards the amount of disability which ought to remain after the completion of treatment."

"Your committee having now discussed the general questions connected with the subject assigned to them, it remains to refer to the mode of action which the writer of the letter proposes the Society should take, viz., to investigate each case and remunerate the defendant member, provided it should appear that he has been unjustly cast in damages. Fully recognizing the possibility of the injustice complained of, your committee still do not believe that the members of the Society could be assessed to repay damages to one of their number. No such payment could be expected to be made, unless, after a second trial by a committee of the Society, manifest injustice should have been proved; and your committee believe it would require the evil to be infinitely more threatening than at present, before the whole body of medical men would find any advantage in making themselves members of such a mutual insurance company." . . .

"And finally your committee would suggest to any member of this Society, finding himself threatened with a prosecution for alleged mal-practice, at once to make a distinct offer to refer the case to such medical authority as may be agreed upon; both parties to abide by the decision. Such an offer, if accepted, would save the trouble and expense of a lawsuit, and full justice could not fail to be done the defendant; whilst the refusal of a proposition so manifestly fair could not fail to have a great influence in favor of the physician upon the minds of a jury."

As has been the custom when no definite action had been taken on any matter the records of the council have been silent on the



subject of malpractice defence until the year 1901, nearly fifty years. It does not seem likely that physicians adopted the advice of the committee, offering to refer their cases to a medical referee and abiding by his decision; we know that they made no recorded effort to collect funds from the society at large to defray the expenses of individual malpractice defence.

In the record of the meeting of the council June 11, 1901 is to be found this entry:

"A communication was read from the Plymouth District Medical Society recommending to the Massachusetts Medical Society that a bureau be organized under its auspices for the mutual support and financial defence of its members against damaging blackmail and malpractice suits at law. Voted, That the communication be referred to the Committee on State and National Legislation."

This committee reported October 2, 1901 that the petition be not granted.

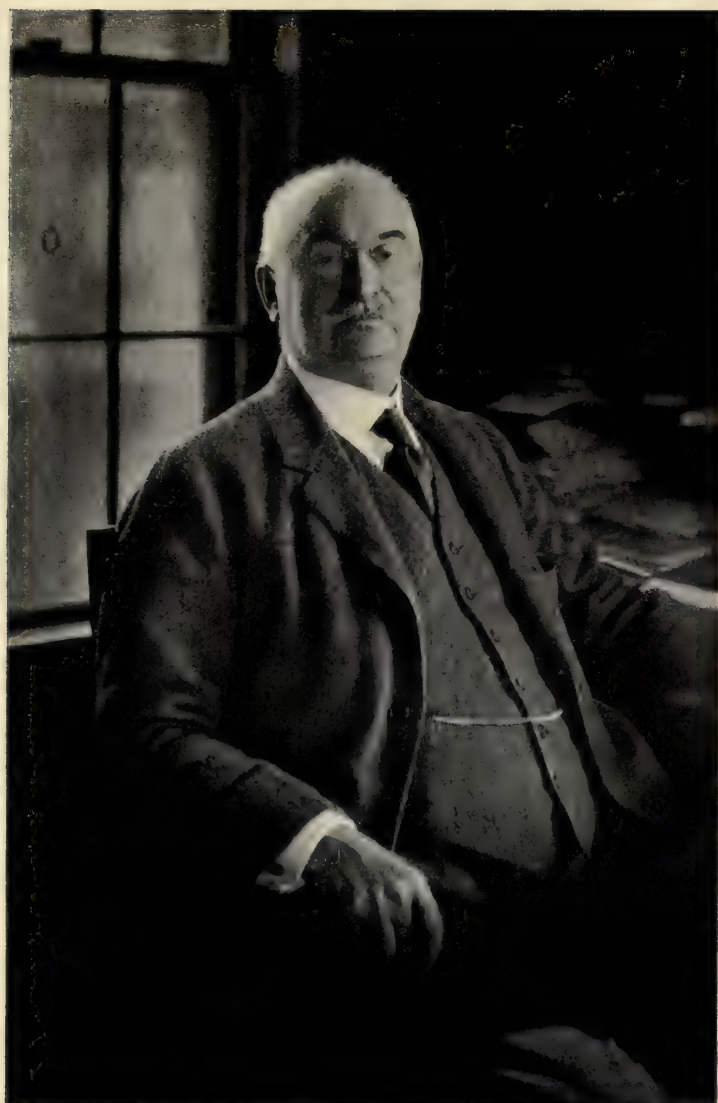
At about this time the New York State Medical Association began to be interested in malpractice defence. James Taylor Lewis began the defence of malpractice actions in September, 1900, as counsel, according to his statement in the *New York State Journal of Medicine* for March, 1910. In the year 1901 the New York State Medical Association adopted the by-law which follows:

"Article II — Defense of Suits for Alleged Malpractice. Section 7. The Council shall, upon request and compliance with the conditions hereinafter provided, assume the defense of suits of alleged malpractice brought against members of this Association. The Council shall not undertake the defense of any suit based upon acts prior to the qualification of the accused as a member of the Association. A member desiring to avail himself of the provisions of this section shall make application to the Council through the Secretary, shall sign a contract renouncing his own and vesting in the Council sole authority to conduct the defense of said suit or to settle by compromise, and shall make such other agreements as the Council may require. The Council shall thereupon contract with said applicant to take full charge of said suit, to furnish all necessary legal services, to pay all necessary expenses and not to compromise said suit without consent of the accused, but the Council shall not obligate the Association to the payment of any damages awarded by decree of court or upon compromise."

Under the terms of this by-law Mr. Lewis acted as counsel and he continued in that capacity after the amalgamation of the New York State Medical Association and the Medical Society of the State of New York in January, 1906. A large number of cases were handled yearly, in some years as many as eighty, and with success as regards obtaining verdicts. It is not my purpose to



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trace here the history of the New York provisions for malpractice defence. The by-law has been given because the Massachusetts malpractice act was modeled on the New York law which had been in successful operation for six years when our malpractice act went into effect in 1908.

The question of malpractice defence was revived again in the council of the Massachusetts Medical Society on October 2, 1907 when Dr. F. G. Wheatley moved and it was

*"Voted, That a committee of three, of which the President of the Society shall be one, be appointed to consider and report at the next meeting of the Council what action, if any, it will recommend the Society to take in regard to defending its members in suits for malpractice."*

Accordingly at the February meeting of the council in 1908 the committee, consisting of G. W. Gay, president, F. G. Wheatley and C. H. Cook, presented the so-called act which was adopted by the society at its meeting on June 10, 1908. It has remained the same to the present and is given here. Just why it was called an act does not appear unless, following the practice of the Legislature, bills become acts on passing that body and receiving the signature of the governor.

#### ACT FOR THE DEFENCE OF SUITS FOR MALPRACTICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Active members of the Massachusetts Medical Society shall be entitled, on conditions hereinafter specified, to receive, without personal expense therefor, legal advice and court service of an attorney or attorneys-at-law in the employ of the society, for the purpose of conducting their defence in any court in this Commonwealth, when they are accused of malpractice, or of illegal transactions in connection with the commitment of persons to institutions for the insane.

The legal services herein provided for shall be granted only on the following conditions:

*Second:* They shall agree not to compromise the complaints against them nor to make settlement of them in any manner without the advice or consent of the society given through its attorney, nor shall they employ other counsel in aid of their defence without the consent of the society.

*Third:* In the event that they shall, without the advice or consent of the society, determine to settle or compromise complaints against them, they shall reimburse the society for the expenses incurred in undertaking their defence, and in default thereof they shall be deprived of further privileges under this act.

*Fourth:* In the event that members of the society shall make requests under the provisions hereof, the president and secretary acting together shall have the power to grant the same, or for cause to reject them, as the case may be, and to make such further provisions or requirements as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the purpose and intent of this act.

*Fifth:* The society shall not assume any responsibility for the payment of



sums agreed upon by arbitration in the settlement of complaints, or awarded by court verdicts, or for making payments for any purpose whatsoever, except as specified in this act.

*Sixth:* This act shall take effect upon its approval by the council and adoption by the society, and shall apply only to suits based upon professional services rendered subsequent to its adoption.

*Approved by the Council, June 9, 1908. Adopted by the Society, June 10, 1908.*

When this act had been in force for ten years Dr. George W. Gay, who had been responsible for the drawing and adoption of the act,—Dr. E. B. Harvey having been instrumental in making the phraseology and in steering the act through the council and society,—reported to the council on the malpractice experiences during that time (Council Records, June 18, 1918, page 24). He said that ninety-four cases of threatened suit for alleged malpractice had been referred to the secretary of the society and that he had had numerous other instances where the cases had not come to definite action. Twelve cases had been tried, with a verdict for the defendant in each instance except that a new trial was granted in one case, leaving nineteen cases in the hands of the society's attorney. Of these many were inactive and might never come to trial. Eleven times the actions had been defaulted, had been outlawed or had been dropped; applications for defence in fourteen cases were on file in the secretary's office; suits were threatened in nineteen but no applications for defence were received; settlement was made in six, through the efforts of the attorney. In only three instances were applications refused, as not falling within the scope of the act.

Fractures were the most numerous causes of suits, thirteen in number; ten cases related to alleged unskilful treatment of confinement; six had to do with burns from hot water bottles or the X-ray; four were for alleged unjust commitment to an insane asylum; the rest were scattering.

The average annual expense of malpractice defence was \$504 for these first ten years, one year the expense being as high as \$1145; another year it so happened that no bills were received from the attorney, who, by the way, was Mr. Arthur D. Hill of Boston, at one time district attorney for Suffolk County. The society owed much to the skilful manner in which he handled the cases intrusted to his care and to the moderation of his charges. When he left the country to be a judge advocate general in the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe the society was forced to obtain a new counsel. Since then it has had most satisfactory



service from Mr. E. P. Saltonstall of Boston, an active court lawyer of experience and district attorney for the northern district of Middlesex County.

Malpractice defence has proved of benefit to the society and has been appreciated by the fellows through the relief from worry and freedom from expense that it has brought to those who have been threatened by legal proceedings. Up to the present only two cases have been lost and in these appeals have been taken to the Supreme Court on points of law so that they have not yet been decided adversely. The machinery works as follows: When a fellow receives a threatening letter from a lawyer he gets into touch with the secretary of the society, generally by telephone, states the outside facts and is sent at once a copy of the malpractice act and an application blank. He fills out the blank and mails it together with an account of all the pertinent facts as to his diagnosis and treatment of the complaining patient, also the receipted bill for society dues for the current year. When the papers are in proper shape the secretary takes up the case with the president of the society. If there are debatable points they are considered. None but strictly construed cases of malpractice are accepted. The president and the secretary sign the application and it is forwarded by the secretary to the counsel of the society with a request to enter an appearance in court and defend the suit for the society. This is in the event that suit has been actually entered. If matters have not gone beyond the stage of threatening the fellow is informed that he may tell the plaintiff's attorney that he has placed the case in the hands of the society and the papers are put in the secretary's file for future developments, the fellow being informed that he is to notify the secretary at once if suit has been entered and he has received a summons to appear in court on a given date. In a majority of instances no further action is taken after the case has been intrusted to the society and the papers rest in the files indefinitely. Now and then suit is entered, the papers are taken from the files, submitted to the president, and sent to the counsel, just as in the cases in which suit was entered in the first place.

The support given the accused members in court by fellows of the society is all that could be asked for; they are always ready to appear and testify and to assist counsel with advice. From time to time, on recommendation by counsel, the society votes its thanks to these helpers.

A copy of the application blank is printed here.

The Massachusetts Medical Society.

## APPLICATION FOR MALPRACTICE DEFENCE.

*To the Massachusetts Medical Society:*

The undersigned residing at .....  
(TOWN) (STREET AND NO.)

Massachusetts, and being an active member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, hereby applies for defence under the terms of the Act for the Defence of Suits for Malpractice, adopted by the Society, June 10, 1908, in an action

for alleged malpractice brought against him by.....  
of.....Massachusetts.

In consideration of this defence the undersigned agrees not to compromise or settle this claim without the consent of the Massachusetts Medical Society given through its attorney. He renounces his own defence and gives the said Society full power to defend said action and look after his interest. He agrees not to obligate the said Society to the payment of any money whatsoever for any purpose, and will help and co-operate with it and its attorney in the defence of said action, by procuring witnesses, by executing any papers properly presented to him for signature and execution, and by doing all things necessary or proper for such defence.

The names of all witnesses (physicians, nurses, or others), who have any knowledge of the circumstances involved in said action are as follows:

.....Residing at.....

.....Residing at.....

.....Residing at.....

.....Residing at.....

.....Residing at.....

The undersigned has hereunto annexed a true, accurate and complete statement of the treatment by him of the patient, and a complete history, so far as he is able to give it, of any other treatment received by the patient, giving the dates and places of all examinations, treatments or operations by himself or others.

The undersigned encloses herewith his last receipted bill for Society dues, lawyer's letter, court summons, or other documents received by him in connection with said action or the circumstances on which it is based.

Dated at.....19.....

.....Applicant.  
(Name in full)

*Approved for the Society,*

Date.....19

*President.*

*Secretary.*





After the malpractice act had been in operation five years a committee of five was appointed by the council, October 1, 1913, to consider the working of the act and report to the council what changes in the act, if any, were advisable. The committee, consisting of Godfrey Ryder, G. W. Gay, F. W. Goss, Hugh Cabot and A. N. Broughton, reported in February, 1914 reviewing the malpractice defence situation, answering seven queries that had been advanced by the secretary as a result of his experience in handling the suits, but recommending no changes in the act itself. The committee advised continuing with the president and secretary in charge of the cases instead of a committee, because by so doing time was saved, the secretary was always available by telephone — frequently the court summons required attention to a suit before opportunity offered to get a committee together; they thought it proper that the society should defray the actual expenses of the experts who were summoned to court as witnesses, but that no fees should be paid; whether suits should be settled was to be decided by the president and secretary acting jointly; all fellows were urged to avail themselves of the benefits of the act and thus discourage the bringing of suits. The report was accepted and its recommendations adopted. Yearly reports were made to the council on the status of malpractice defence and the cases have been handled in the same way up to the present time.

Twenty-seven of the state medical societies have some form of malpractice defence. One of the chief difficulties with this sort of protection has been that the state society does not pay any damages that may be awarded by the court. Many members of the state society are slow to avail themselves of the defence on this account and have carried insurance in commercial insurance companies. The objection to that form of insurance has been that it encourages the bringing of actions, for is not the plaintiff's lawyer in the way of receiving pay from the insurance company, if not from the defendant physician? A majority of suits may be settled or compromised for less money than it would cost to fight them in court; the plaintiff's attorney is likely to get something out of a threatened suit if an insurance company is back of a physician, whereas he gets nothing if the suit is defended by a state medical society. Very few suits against members of state medical societies have been won in court, nevertheless a large majority of physicians of prominence, having bank accounts of any considerable size, have carried commercial insurance, insurance, that is, which con-

ducts its business for the purpose of making money. Here again is another drawback in the defence of the suits by insurance companies. The fact that such a company is making money deters many of the experts from offering their services as witnesses in court. If the insurance company has to pay witness fees the cost of the insurance is increased and the profit of the business is decreased. In the recent past the companies have raised their rates on the premiums to over twice the previous rates with the effect of stimulating the state societies to provide indemnity as well as defence for their fellows. The Medical Society of the State of California has an "inter-indemnifying" plan, open to members who desire to participate, requiring a preliminary assessment of thirty dollars each. This is classed as "indemnity" and not insurance. Members of the California society are advised to carry insurance as well as this indemnity.

The Medical Society of the State of New York, the first state medical society to adopt malpractice defence for its members, furnishing the model on which the Massachusetts Medical Society's act was drawn, put into effect on May 2, 1921 a provision for indemnifying those of its members who desired to avail themselves of it, still offering them defence as before.

The provisions of the New York society are best described in the report of their counsel, Mr. George W. Whiteside, to the House of Delegates, May 2, 1921, the meeting at which they were adopted by a unanimous vote. I quote from the *New York State Journal of Medicine* for June, 1921, Vol. 21, No. 6, pages 227, 228:

"Those members who have sought indemnity through insurance companies have had their cases defended by the companies and have not received the benefits of the State Society's defense. This has been due to the fact that under the terms of their policy they are required to have their cases defended by the insurance companies' counsel. To bring about a better defense for those members who desire to carry such indemnity by procuring for them the coöperation of their fellow members and of the legal counsel of the Society under the Society's malpractice defense, and at the same time to preserve for those members who do not desire such indemnity features a high order of malpractice defense and provide them likewise with the means of procuring an indemnity against judgments should they so desire, the legal counsel of the Society, in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the Council, has formulated a plan whereby indemnity may be added to the existing benefits of membership in this Society which shall be entirely optional with the members. It has been learned that the increasing hazards in the practice of medicine have caused a number of insurance companies to discontinue writing physicians' and surgeons' liability insurance, and that the few remaining companies



have or will shortly announce an increase in their rates of upwards of two hundred or three hundred percent. All that is needed to make the malpractice defense plan of the Society complete is the addition thereto of an indemnity feature which shall not require any radical change in policy in the carrying on of the malpractice defense activity of the Society, but shall simply be an addition to the benefits already provided for the members. Legal counsel of the Society experienced difficulty in finding any large insurance company engaged in this line of business to coöperate with him to provide this additional feature to the Society's malpractice defense, but finally procured the funds, machinery and coöperation of the largest insurance company in the United States engaged in this class of business to write an indemnity policy for the members of the State Society against malpractice claims on a group plan, the group unit being the County Society. This plan is radically different from anything that has heretofore existed, in that it is entirely optional with the members whether they will take the indemnity feature, or not, and if the indemnity feature is taken, the member so protected shall in addition to the machinery provided by the insurance company for his protection have his case handled by or under the supervision of the Society's legal counsel. In other words, all doctors insured under the group plan will have their cases prepared and defended under the direction of or by the legal counsel of the Society and will receive the same coöperation of his brethren, as though he were uninsured and the fact that he has such indemnity will not be subject to any notice whatever by the public, by reason of the fact that his defense is conducted in the name and by the legal counsel of the Medical Society. This plan meets an objection that has heretofore been urged against doctors carrying such insurance; that is to say, that the fact that such insurance is carried by the doctor becomes known to the claimant, by reason of the participation of the insurance company and its representatives in the defense. This will not be so under the plan suggested, as all of such activities shall be under the direction of or by the legal counsel of the Society."

"The plan provides that master policies may be written for a three-year term at an original cost of \$18. per year per member for \$5,000. in any one case or \$15,000 in any one policy year of 365 days. This rate is to be revised at the end of the experience period on a basis of cost plus two and one half per cent profit for the insurance company. This matter of handling the rate and the arrangements made for handling claims and legal matters effectively makes the insurance feature a practical working part of the Society's defense plan, so that the Society offers insurance features without having to engage in the insurance business and set up large reserves therefor."

"It is very evident that if a majority of the members of the Society desire the indemnity feature in addition to the Society's malpractice defense, that a larger proportion of the expense for malpractice defense of such members will fall upon the insurance company, thereby correspondingly reducing the expense to the Society, that if ultimately the Society's membership should be all insured under this plan there would be practically no expense for legal defense in malpractice cases that would not be borne by the insurance company, and the Society thereby could procure a larger portion of counsel's time in other branches of the Society's activities; also it should not be forgotten that under



this plan the present established centers from which to conduct investigations that are already adequately equipped with trained men maintained by the Aetna Life Insurance Company at Albany, Syracuse, Binghamton, Rochester, Buffalo and New York, can be made available under the direction of the counsel of the Society."

"To establish a machinery of this character for the exclusive use of our Society would entail a prohibitive cost."

"The indemnity feature in the plan proposed is peculiarly valuable to the rural communities, because of those facts already referred to, and it is equally important to those communities that all of the benefits of the State Society's malpractice defense should continue as heretofore to be available to them."

In considering this extremely interesting plan for supplying an indemnity to members of a state medical society one must consider the financial side and the funds that are available for such a purpose. In New York the money spent on malpractice defence has been large, for many years. The counsel gives a great deal of time to the duties of defending the members of the society; not so in the Massachusetts society. By the treasurer's report for the Medical Society of the State of New York for the year 1920 we find the entry of expense for "Legal expenses, \$9,600." This is to be compared with the expense for malpractice defence in the report of the treasurer of the Massachusetts Medical Society for the same year, namely, \$685. Of course all of the legal expenses of the New York society may not have been for malpractice defence. In the year 1917 the item of legal expense in the New York Society was \$8,400; in the year 1915, \$6,727.45; for 1913, \$4,952.58; for 1911, \$3,613.13. Thus we see a steadily growing expense account. The membership of that society has increased from 6,681 on January 1, 1911 to 8,123 on January 1, 1921. This is over twice the membership of the Massachusetts Medical Society today in a very much smaller state, where the membership was on June 1, 1921, 3,933. On June 14, 1911 it was 3,361. In this last year, 1911, the cost of malpractice defense was \$1,148.54, considerably more than in the year 1920, but it is to be remembered that our expense has been uneven since the malpractice act went into effect.

The Massachusetts Medical Society is prevented from embarking on an insurance scheme by its charter, which does not authorize such an undertaking. The entire subject was considered at a special meeting of the council on November 9, 1921 and we can do no better than to quote from the record of that meeting for an account of the action taken.



## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INDEMNITY INSURANCE

The committee appointed at the council meeting of October 5, 1921, namely: W. P. Bowers, E. H. Stevens, P. E. Truesdale, E. A. Bates and A. P. Merrill, to consider the subject of indemnity insurance submits the following report:

Two meetings have been held at which all members were present.

The Chairman secured the subjoined data from the representatives of the following companies and submitted them to the committee:

The United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co. of Balto., offer insurance at an annual rate of \$21 for a five thousand dollar indemnity for any one suit and a limit of \$15,000 for all other suits in the year covered by the policy, \$28 for a 10 to 30,000 policy and \$31.50 for a 15 to 40,000 policy.

The Hartford Accident and Indemnity Co. — \$21 for a 5 to 15,000 and \$28 for a 10 to 30,000. But do not agree to cover all applicants for insurance, for those with greater liability, such as specialists, are not desired.

The Royal Indemnity Co. of N. Y. — \$30 for a 5 to 15,000.

The Fidelity and Casualty Co. of N. Y. — \$45 for a 5 to 15,000.

The Aetna — \$45 for a 5 to 15,000.

After the last meeting of the Committee the New Amsterdam Casualty Co. submitted the following proposition: For an annual premium of \$20 a policy will be written for 5,000 with a 15,000 limit; \$30 for a 10,000 and \$37.50 for a 15,000 without further limit. Yesterday afternoon the usual limit was substituted.

This proposition could not be considered by the Committee and, so far as this one is concerned, the opinion of the Chairman is presented.

This company was represented by two different solicitors and two propositions submitted, so that one may not be sure of the final attitude of the company. In one proposition the rate was quoted as \$25 for a five thousand dollar policy and that was the proposition considered by the committee. It was also stated that this company would expect that 30 % of the members of the Society would take insurance. This is a larger number than could be guaranteed with any degree of confidence, hence, the proposition of Mr. G. H. Crosbie, representing the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co., seems to the Committee to be the better proposition. Mr. Crosbie in his proposition covers all of the points which have been discussed and has incorporated all suggestions made in a statement herewith submitted.

It should be kept in mind that the formation of a mutual insurance society may at any time be considered if the insurance companies again threaten abnormal rates.

It should also be kept in mind that the formation of a group insurance is not a function of the Massachusetts Medical Society as such, for it has no function as an insurance company. And, therefore, this report is only a suggestion or recommendation.

Coöperation of the members of the society is advised in order to secure stability and lowest possible rates for the future.

The conclusion arrived at by the Committee is that the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company offered the most attractive plan. The chairman of the committee, in the absence of opportunity to consult his associates,



suggests that even the offer by the New Amsterdam Company of a rate of one dollar less for a five thousand indemnity policy does not offset the advantage of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company's offer of two dollars less for the ten to thirty thousand dollar policy, and further, the condition of the New Amsterdam Company for a group of not less than 30 % of the society members makes the proposal of the New Amsterdam Company prohibitive.

The agreements of Mr. Crosbie representing the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company are herewith submitted.

(Signed) W. P. Bowers,  
*For the Committee.*

#### AGREEMENTS OF GEORGE H. CROSBIE.

George H. Crosbie, Insurance,  
79 Milk Street, Boston, Mass.  
November 8, 1921.

I hereby submit to the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, group indemnity or physicians' liability insurance to be issued by the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore, Maryland, which Company has a capital of \$4,500,000.00 and assets of \$32,000,000.00. They have already written group policies for fourteen different societies.

(1) The insurance company agree to indemnify and defend each member of the Society taking advantage of this group proposition against loss from the liability imposed by law in consequence of any malpractice error or mistake.

(2) The Company's liability for loss from any malpractice error or mistake will be limited to \$5000 and subject to the same limit for each person. The company's total liability on account of acts committed, or alleged to have been committed, during any one annual premium period, will be \$15,000. The premium charge for these limits will be \$21 per annum. For limits of \$10,000 and \$30,000 the annual premium charge will be \$28; for limits of \$15,000 and \$30,000 the annual premium charge will be \$31.50. Higher limits may be secured at slightly increased rates.

(3) All expenses of investigating and all court costs in defending any suit including the interest on any verdict or judgment or any other costs taxed against the insured will be paid by the Company, irrespective of the limits expressed above.

(4) This policy also covers suits rendered against the estate of the insured and eliminates the old wording "bodily injury and death" from the insurance clause.

(5) The Company will issue a policy in the name of the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which policy will be held by a member of the group as a trustee. Each member of the Society who takes advantage of insurance under this policy will be furnished a certificate to be held by him and a copy of the individual application will be filed with the trustee holding the policy; so that a complete record of all members insured will be in possession of the group.

(6) All certificates issued to individual members will expire on the fiscal date of policy and any certificate issued during the policy year will be on a pro rata premium charge.

(7) In case of suit the doctor being sued shall have the privilege of deciding





whether the case shall be settled outside of court or fought; but before making his decision, if he desires, he may submit the matter to a committee of five members, of the group, three members of this committee to be appointed by the group, one by himself and one from the group by the insurance company. But in all cases the individual doctor shall have the final decision himself. It is strongly recommended that the doctor being sued should appeal to the Committee of Five.

(8) To constitute a group the company require 400 members being insured during the first year. I can assure the Society of more than this number so that this requirement of the Company will be met. The success of the whole proposition will depend on the hearty coöperation of the Society. If the business is divided between two or three companies, no one company can get an average on the business.

(9) No member will be required to carry this group insurance or to release his right now existing to participate in the Malpractice Defense Act of the Society. It will in no way interfere with the Act.

(10) Any member now insured in another company may take advantage of this group insurance in addition to his other insurance or wait until the expiration of present policy and have the group insurance apply from that date.

(11) Under this group plan, the Society will have no expense or detail as the collection of premiums, issuing of policies, will be all handled through my office. The only request I ask is that notification be given me of the appointment of new members and the discontinuance of any old members.

This insurance can be made effective as soon as acted upon.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) George H. Crosbie.

P.S. This group is applicable only to members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. On resignation of a member, this insurance automatically ceases.

#### MOTION.

*Moved:* That the Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society endorse the conclusions of the committee on indemnity insurance and recommend to members of the society who intend to take indemnity insurance to take advantage of the proposition submitted by the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore through Mr. George H. Crosbie.

The motion was amended by Dr. J. S. Stone of Suffolk, to the effect that under the agreement No. 7, submitted by Mr. Crosbie, the advisory committee "shall consist of the counsel of the society, two members of the group, a representative of the insurance company and a representative of the defendant." The amendment was adopted and the motion passed.

A large number of fellows have taken policies in the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company since the November meeting of the council, apparently to their satisfaction. Malpractice defence has gone on as before with a slight lessening in the number of cases that have been placed in the hands of the society's attorney.

## APPENDIX

### OFFICERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY, 1781-1922

#### PRESIDENTS

EDWARD AUGUSTUS HOLYOKE, Salem.....	1782-1784
WILLIAM KNEELAND, Cambridge.....	1784-1786
EDWARD AUGUSTUS HOLYOKE, Salem.....	1786-1787
COTTON TUFTS, Weymouth.....	1787-1795
SAMUEL DANFORTH, Boston.....	1795-1798
ISAAC RAND, Boston.....	1798-1804
JOHN WARREN, Boston.....	1804-1815
JOSHUA FISHER, Beverly.....	1815-1823
JOHN BROOKS, Medford.....	1823-1825
JAMES JACKSON, Boston.....	1825-1832
JOHN COLLINS WARREN, Boston.....	1832-1836
GEORGE CHEYNE SHATTUCK, Boston.....	1836-1840
RUFUS WYMAN, Roxbury.....	1840-1842
JACOB BIGELOW, Boston.....	1842-1847
ZADOK HOWE, Billerica.....	1847-1848
JOHN WARE, Boston.....	1848-1852
GEORGE HAYWARD, Boston.....	1852-1855
ELISHA HUNTINGTON, Lowell.....	1855-1857
LUTHER VOSE BELL, Somerville.....	1857-1859
JOHN HOMANS, Boston.....	1859-1862
JOSIAH BARTLETT, Concord.....	1862-1864
AUGUSTUS ADDISON GOULD, Boston.....	1864-1866
HENRY COIT PERKINS, Newburyport.....	1866-1868
CHARLES GIDEON PUTNAM, Boston.....	1868-1870
SAMUEL AUGUSTUS FISK, Northampton.....	1870-1872
GEORGE CHEYNE SHATTUCK, Boston.....	1872-1874
BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING, Roxbury.....	1874-1876
WILLIAM COGSWELL, Bradford.....	1876-1878
GEORGE HINCKLEY LYMAN, Boston.....	1878-1880
HENRY WILLARD WILLIAMS, Boston.....	1880-1882
ALFRED HOSMER, Watertown.....	1882-1884
CHARLES DUDLEY HOMANS, Boston.....	1884-1886
THOMAS HOVEY GAGE, Worcester.....	1886-1888
DAVID WILLIAMS CHEEVER, Boston.....	1888-1890
AMOS HOWE JOHNSON, Salem.....	1890-1892



JAMES CLARKE WHITE, Boston.....	1892-1894
FRANKLIN KITTREDGE PADDOCK, Pittsfield.....	1894-1896
HENRY PICKERING WALCOTT, Cambridge.....	1896-1898
EDWIN BAYARD HARVEY, Westborough.....	1898-1900
FRANK WINTHROP DRAPER, Boston.....	1900-1902
GEORGE EBENEZER FRANCIS, Worcester.....	1902-1904
ARTHUR TRACY CABOT, Boston.....	1904-1906
GEORGE WASHINGTON GAY, Chestnut Hill.....	1906-1908
SILAS DEAN PRESBREY, Taunton.....	1908-1910
GEORGE BRUNE SHATTUCK, Boston.....	1910-1912
WALTER PRENTICE BOWERS, Clinton.....	1912-1914
CHARLES FRANCIS WITHINGTON, Boston.....	1914-1916
SAMUEL BAYARD WOODWARD, Worcester.....	1916-1919
ALFRED WORCESTER, Waltham.....	1919-1921
JOHN WASHBURN BARTOL, Boston.....	1921-1923

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

JAMES PECKER, Boston.....	1782-1785
COTTON TUFTS, Weymouth.....	1785-1787
ISAAC RAND, Boston.....	1787-1790
SAMUEL DANFORTH, Boston.....	1790-1795
SAMUEL HOLTEN, Danvers.....	1795-1797
ISAAC RAND, Boston.....	1797-1798
EBENEZER HUNT, Northampton.....	1798-1800
JOHN WARREN, Boston.....	1800-1804
JOSHUA FISHER, Beverly.....	1804-1815
THOMAS WELSH, Boston.....	1815-1823
JAMES JACKSON, Boston.....	1823-1825
ABRAHAM HASKELL, Leominster.....	1825-1827
AMOS HOLBROOK, Milton.....	1827-1832
JOHN DIXWELL, Boston.....	1832-1835
NATHANIEL MILLER, Franklin.....	1835-1840
STEPHEN BACHELLER, Royalston.....	1840-1842
SOLOMON DAVIS TOWNSEND, Boston.....	1842-1843
ROBERT THAXTER, Dorchester.....	1843-1845
SAMUEL MORRILL, Boston.....	1845-1846
EDWARD FLINT, Leicester.....	1846-1848
JOSEPH STONE, Hardwick.....	1848-1849
CHARLES GIDEON PUTNAM, Boston.....	1849-1850
ANDREW MACKIE, New Bedford.....	1850-1854
JAMES DEANE, Greenfield.....	1854-1857
THOMAS RICHARDSON BOUTELLE, Fitchburg.....	1857-1859
JOHN GEORGE METCALF, Mendon.....	1859-1862
EBENEZER ALDEN, Randolph.....	1862-1864
HENRY LYMAN SABIN, Williamstown.....	1864-1866
FOSTER HOOPER, Fall River.....	1866-1868
HENRY LYMAN SABIN, Williamstown.....	1868-1870
EBENEZER HUNT, Danversport.....	1870-1872



BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING, Roxbury.....	1872-1874
JOSEPH SARGENT, Worcester.....	1874-1876
JONATHAN WALTER DANDOLO OSGOOD, Greenfield.....	1876-1877
GILMAN KIMBALL, Lowell.....	1877-1878
DAVID PAIGE SMITH, Springfield.....	1878-1880
ASA MILLET, East Bridgewater.....	1880-1881
THOMAS HOVEY GAGE, Worcester.....	1881-1882
JOHN HOWELL MACKIE, New Bedford.....	1882-1883
IRA RUSSELL, Winchendon.....	1883-1884
ADAM CALHOUN DEANE, Greenfield.....	1884-1885
GEORGE NELSON MUNSELL, Harwich.....	1885-1886
JOHN MARTYN HARLOW, Woburn.....	1886-1887
WILLIAM GILMAN BRECK, Springfield.....	1887-1888
GEORGE JEWETT, Fitchburg.....	1888-1889
CHARLES ELLERY STEDMAN, Dorchester.....	1889-1890
GEORGE DANFORTH COLONY, Fitchburg.....	1890-1891
JAN JOSEPH BASTIANUS VERMYNE, New Bedford.....	1891-1892
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS HOWE, Newburyport.....	1892-1893
ZABDIEL BOYLSTON ADAMS, Framingham.....	1893-1894
FREDERICK AUGUSTUS SAWYER, Wareham.....	1894-1895
ANDREW MARTIN PIERCE, New Bedford.....	1895-1896
ALBERT WOOD, Worcester.....	1896-1897
SAMUEL WARREN ABBOTT, Wakefield.....	1897-1898
MAURICE DWIGHT CLARKE, Haverhill.....	1898-1899
CHARLES MONTRAVILLE GREEN, Boston.....	1899-1900
WILLIAM WINSLOW EATON, Danvers.....	1900-1901
AUGUSTUS CHAPMAN WALKER, Greenfield.....	1901-1902
STEPHEN WILLIAM HAYES, New Bedford.....	1902-1903
JAMES FORSTER ALLEYNE ADAMS, Pittsfield.....	1903-1904
GEORGE WASHINGTON GAY, Chestnut Hill.....	1904-1905
FREDERICK HENRY THOMPSON, Fitchburg.....	1905-1906
LEONARD WHEELER, Worcester.....	1906-1907
FRANCIS JOEL CANEDY, Shelburne Falls.....	1907-1908
DANIEL EDWARD KEEFE, Springfield.....	1908-1909
JOSEPH GURNEY PINKHAM, Lynn.....	1909-1910
HALBERT GREENLEAF STETSON, Greenfield.....	1910-1911
ERNEST SANFORD JACK, Melrose.....	1911-1912
FRANCIS WEBSTER GOSS, Roxbury.....	1912-1913
LYMAN ASA JONES, North Adams.....	1913-1914
SAMUEL BAYARD WOODWARD, Worcester.....	1914-1915
EDMUND FRANCIS CODY, New Bedford.....	1915-1916
FREDERIC WESTON TAYLOR, Cambridge.....	1916-1917
GEORGE PIERCE TWITCHELL, Greenfield.....	1917-1919
ARTHUR RICHMOND CRANDELL, Taunton.....	1919-1920
FREDERIC ELLIS JONES, Quincy.....	1920-1921
BRACE WHITMAN PADDOCK, Pittsfield.....	1921-1922
CHARLES EDWARD MONGAN, Somerville.....	1922-1923



## RECORDING SECRETARIES

NATHANIEL WALKER APPLETON, Boston.....	1782-1792
JOSIAH BARTLETT, Charlestown.....	1792-1796
WILLIAM JACKSON, Boston.....	1796-1798
JOHN FLEET, Boston.....	1798-1802
THOMAS DANFORTH, Boston.....	1802-1805
JOHN COLLINS WARREN, Boston.....	1805-1814
JOHN DIXWELL, Boston.....	1814-1822
THOMAS IVERS PARKER, Boston.....	1822-1823
JOHN GORHAM, Boston.....	1823-1826
GEORGE HAYWARD, Boston.....	1826-1832
ENOCH HALE JR., Boston.....	1832-1835
JOHN HOMANS, Boston.....	1835-1838
SOLOMON DAVIS TOWNSEND, Boston.....	1838-1840
GEORGE WASHINGTON OTIS JR., Boston.....	1840-1842
SAMUEL MORRILL, Boston.....	1842-1843
DAVID HUMPHREYS STORER, Boston.....	1843-1846
CHARLES GIDEON PUTNAM, Boston.....	1846-1847
ALEXANDER THOMAS, Boston.....	1847-1848
CHARLES GIDEON PUTNAM, Boston.....	1848-1849
HENRY INGERSOLL BOWDITCH, Boston.....	1849-1851
CHARLES ELIOT WARE, Boston.....	1851-1854
SAMUEL PARKMAN, Boston.....	1854-1855
BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING, Roxbury.....	1855-1857
JOHN BURROUGHS ALLEY, Boston.....	1857-1862
FRANCIS MINOT, Boston.....	1862-1863
WILLIAM WALLACE MORLAND, Boston.....	1863-1864
CHARLES DUDLEY HOMANS, Boston.....	1864-1865
RICHARD MANNING HODGES, Boston.....	1865-1866
DAVID WILLIAMS CHEEVER, Boston.....	1866-1867
CALVIN GATES PAGE, Boston.....	1867-1868
CHARLES WALTER SWAN, Boston.....	1868-1873
FRANK WINTHROP DRAPER, Boston.....	1873-1875
FRANCIS WEBSTER GOSS, Roxbury.....	1875-1906

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

JOHN BARNARD SWETT, Newburyport.....	1782-1787
JOHN WARREN, Boston.....	1787-1800
JOSEPH WHIPPLE, Boston.....	1800-1805
THOMAS WELSH, Boston.....	1805-1815
JOHN COLLINS WARREN, Boston.....	1815-1822
JOHN DIXWELL, Boston.....	1822-1832
GEORGE HAYWARD, Boston.....	1832-1835
ENOCH HALE JR., Boston.....	1835-1838
JOHN HOMANS, Boston.....	1838-1840
SOLOMON DAVIS TOWNSEND, Boston.....	1840-1843
SAMUEL MORRILL, Boston.....	1843-1846

DAVID HUMPHREYS STORER, Boston.....	1846-1847
JOHN BARNARD SWETT JACKSON, Boston.....	1847-1848
DAVID HUMPHREYS STORER, Boston.....	1848-1849
CHARLES GIDEON PUTNAM, Boston.....	1849-1851
HENRY INGERSOLL BOWDITCH, Boston.....	1851-1854
CHARLES ELIOT WARE, Boston.....	1854-1857
BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING, Roxbury.....	1857-1864
WILLIAM EDWARD COALE, Boston.....	1864-1865
CHARLES DUDLEY HOMANS, Boston.....	1865-1873
CHARLES WALTER SWAN, Boston.....	1873-1906

## SECRETARIES

FRANCIS WEBSTER GOSS, Roxbury.....	1906-1909
WALTER LINCOLN BURRAGE, Boston.....	1909-

## TREASURERS

THOMAS WELSH, Boston.....	1782-1798
THOMAS KAST, Boston.....	1798-1807
JAMES JACKSON, Boston.....	1807-1811
JOHN GORHAM COFFIN, Boston.....	1811-1818
JOHN GORHAM, Boston.....	1818-1823
JACOB BIGELOW, Boston.....	1823-1828
WALTER CHANNING, Boston.....	1828-1840
WOODBIDGE STRONG, Boston.....	1840-1845
AUGUSTUS ADDISON GOULD, Boston.....	1845-1847
ZABDIEL BOYLSTON ADAMS, Boston.....	1847-1848
AUGUSTUS ADDISON GOULD, Boston.....	1848-1863
FRANCIS MINOT, Boston.....	1863-1875
FRANK WINTHROP DRAPER, Boston.....	1875-1891
EDWARD JACOB FORSTER, Boston.....	1891-1896
EDWARD MARSHALL BUCKINGHAM, Boston.....	1896-1916
ARTHUR KINGSBURY STONE, Boston.....	1917-

## LIBRARIANS

AARON DEXTER, Boston.....	1782-1792
WILLIAM SPOONER, Boston.....	1792-1800
JOHN FLEET, Boston.....	1800-1813
JOHN DIXWELL, Boston.....	1813-1814
JOHN GORHAM, Boston.....	1814-1818
WILLIAM GAMAGE, Cambridge.....	1818-1819
JOHN RANDALL, Boston.....	1819-1822
WALTER CHANNING, Boston.....	1822-1825
GEORGE HAYWARD, Boston.....	1825-1826
ENOCH HALE JR., Boston.....	1826-1832
DAVID OSGOOD, Boston.....	1832-1838
GEORGE WASHINGTON OTIS JR., Boston.....	1838-1840
SAMUEL MORRELL, Boston.....	1840-1842



WINSLOW LEWIS JR., Boston.....	1842-1843
CHARLES GIDEON PUTNAM, Boston.....	1843-1846
ALEXANDER THOMAS, Boston.....	1846-1847
MARTIN GAY, Boston.....	1847-1849
ABRAHAM ANDROS WATSON, Boston.....	1849-1854
JOHN BURROUGHS ALLEY, Boston.....	1854-1857
WILLIAM EDWARD COALE, Boston.....	1857-1864
JAMES CLARKE WHITE, Boston.....	1864-1872
DAVID HYSLOP HAYDEN, Boston.....	1872-1884
EDWIN HOWARD BRIGHAM, Boston.....	1884-1922

## LIBRARIAN EMERITUS

EDWIN HOWARD BRIGHAM, Brookline.....	1922-
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## ORATORS AND THEIR SUBJECTS, 1804-1922

1804. Isaac Rand, Boston. On Phthisis Pulmonalis, and the Use of the Warm Bath.
1805. John Warren, Boston. On the Mercurial Practice in Febrile Diseases.
1806. Joshua Fisher, Beverly. On Several Narcotic Vegetable Substances.
1807. Thomas Welsh, Boston. On Heat and Cold, as Agents on the Human Body.
1808. John Brooks, Medford. On Pneumonic Inflammation.
1809. Aaron Dexter, Boston. On the Use of Blisters in Diseases of the Articulations.
1810. Josiah Bartlett, Charlestown. On the Progress of Medical Science in Massachusetts.
1811. Oliver Fiske, Worcester. On Certain Epidemics which have prevailed in the County of Worcester.
1812. Abraham Haskell, Lunenburg. On Cynanche Trachealis.
1813. Oliver Prescott, Groton. On the Natural History and Medicinal Effects of *Secale Cornutum*, or Ergot.
1816. Richard Hazeltine, Berwick (Maine). On Phlegmasia Dolens.
1817. Hector Orr, Bridgewater. On the Properties of Animal and Vegetable Life.
1818. James Jackson, Boston. On Fever.
1820. John Collins Warren, Boston. A Comparative View of the Sensorial and Nervous Systems in Man and Animals.
1821. Nathaniel Bradstreet, Newburyport. On the Proximate Cause of Fever.
1822. John Gorham Coffin, Boston. On Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession.
1823. Henry Halsey Childs, Pittsfield. On the Progress of Medical Science in this State.
1824. Robert Thaxter, Dorchester. On the Excessive Use of Ardent Spirits.
1826. Joseph Henshaw Flint, Northampton. On the Prophylactic Management of Infants and Early Childhood.

1827. Nathaniel Miller, Franklin. On the Manner of Detecting Deep-seated Matter.
1828. George Cheyne Shattuck, Boston. On the Uncertainty of the Healing Art.
1829. William Sweetser, Burlington, Vt. A Dissertation on Intemperance.
1830. Rufus Wyman, Charlestown. On Mental Philosophy, as connected with Mental Diseases.
1833. Walter Channing, Boston. On Irritable Uterus.
1834. Zadok Howe, Billerica. On Quackery.
1835. Jacob Bigelow, Boston. On Self-limited Diseases.
1836. Andrew Nichols, Danvers. On Irritation of the Nerves.
1837. George Hayward, Boston. On some of the Diseases of the Knee-joint.
1838. Ebenezer Alden, Randolph. Historical Sketch of the Origin and Progress of the Massachusetts Medical Society.
1839. Enoch Hale Jr., Boston. On the Typhoid Fever of New England.
1840. Abel Lawrence Peirson, Salem. On Fractures.
1841. Edward Reynolds, Boston. On the Condition, Prospects and Duties of the Medical Profession.
1842. Stephen West Williams, Deerfield. A Medical History of the County of Franklin in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
1843. Charles Woodward Wilder, Leominster. Pulmonary Consumption — Its Causes, Symptoms and Treatment.
1844. John Homans, Boston. The Character and Qualifications of the Good Physician.
1845. William Johnson Walker, Charlestown. The Treatment of Compound and Complicated Fractures.
1846. John Orne Green, Lowell. The Factory in its Hygienic Relations.
1847. John Ware, Boston. Condition and Prospects of the Medical Profession.
1848. Luther Vose Bell, Somerville. On the Practical Method of Ventilating Buildings.
1849. Edward Jarvis, Dorchester. On the Production of Vital Force.
1850. Andrew Mackie, New Bedford. Medical Education.
1851. David Humphreys Storer, Boston. Medical Jurisprudence.
1852. Henry Lyman Sabin, Williamstown. The Duties, Trials and Pleasures of the Medical Profession.
1853. John Barnard Swett Jackson, Boston. Morbid Anatomy.
1854. William Workman, Worcester. The Progress of Medical Science.
1855. Augustus Addison Gould, Boston. Search out the Secrets of Nature.
1856. John George Metcalf, Mendon. The Study and Practice of Midwifery.
1857. Marshall Sears Perry, Boston. The Principles and Objects of the Massachusetts Medical Society.
1858. Horatio Adams, Waltham. Investigations upon the Subject of Vaccination.
1859. Timothy Childs, Pittsfield. Rational Medicine, — Its true Relations to Specialists, to the Partisans of Exclusive Systems, and to Empirics.
1860. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Boston. Currents and Counter-Currents in Medical Science.

1861. Henry Coit Perkins, Newburyport. The Duties of the Physician and Surgeon in War.
1862. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, Boston. Topographical Distribution and Local Origin of Consumption in Massachusetts.
1863. Morrill Wyman, Cambridge. The Reality and Certainty of Medicine.
1864. Jonathan Mason Warren, Boston. Recent Progress in Surgery.
1865. Benjamin Eddy Cotting, Roxbury. Disease, — a Part of the Plan of Creation.
1866. George Cheyne Shattuck, Boston. The Medical Profession and Society.
1867. Horace Poole Wakefield, Tewksbury. The Duties of the Medical Profession.
1868. Henry Grafton Clark, Boston. Medical Jurisprudence.
1869. Alfred Hitchcock, Fitchburg. Organic and Parallel Relation of some of the Practical Truths and Errors of Christianity and Medical Science.
1870. William Williamson Wellington, Cambridgeport. Modern Medicine, — Its Need and Its Tendency.
1871. Henry Jacob Bigelow, Boston. Medical Education in America.
1872. Thomas Newcomb Stone, Wellfleet. Watch and Wait.
1873. Charles Edward Buckingham, Boston. The Proper Treatment of Children.
1874. Nathan Allen, Lowell. The Medical Problems of the Day.
1875. George Hinckley Lyman, Boston. The Interests of the Public and the Medical Profession.
1876. Pierre LeBreton Stickney, Springfield. The Country Doctor, — His Place in the Profession.
1877. John Richardson Bronson, Attleborough. A Review of Medicine, — Its Work and Its Worth.
1878. Francis Minot, Boston. Hints in Ethics and Hygiene.
1879. George Waterhouse Garland, Lawrence. Many Things Remain to be Done.
1880. Thomas Hovey Gage, Worcester. The Prevention of the Spread of Typhoid Fever.
1881. John Collins Warren, Boston. Medical Societies, — Their Organization and the Nature of their Work.
1881. Samuel Abbott Green, Boston. The History of Medicine in Massachusetts. The Centennial Address.
1882. James Porter Lynde, Athol. Infantile Mortality, — Its Causes and Prevention.
1883. Amos Howe Johnson, Salem. Nature guides best, when guided.
1884. John Crowell, Haverhill. The Physician a Popular Educator.
1885. Franklin Kittredge Paddock, Pittsfield. Antiseptic Surgery.
1886. Richard Manning Hodges, Boston. Undercurrents of Modern Medicine.
1887. George James Townsend, South Natick. The Position of the Massachusetts Medical Society, — Its Relation to Medical Progress, to the Community in which we Practise, and to its Fellows.
1888. Benjamin Joy Jeffries, Boston. Re-establishment of the Medical Profession.



## 470 MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

1889. Henry Pickering Walcott, Cambridge. *State and Preventive Medicine in Massachusetts.*
1890. James Clarke White, Boston. *The Relations of the Massachusetts Medical Society to Medical Education: a Plea for Professional Independence.*
1891. James Bartlett Brewster, Plymouth. James Thacher, M.D., of Plymouth, Massachusetts.
1892. Frank Winthrop Draper, Boston. *The Medical Profession and the Commonwealth.*
1893. John Taylor Gilman Nichols, Cambridge. *The Misuse of Drugs in Modern Practice.*
1894. Reginald Heber Fitz, Boston. *The Legislative Control of Medical Practice.*
1895. Alfred Worcester, Waltham. *The Physician's Extra Professional Duties.*
1896. Henry Pickering Bowditch, Jamaica Plain. *The Advancement of Medicine by Research.*
1897. Zabdiel Boylston Adams, Framingham. *An Epoch of Medicine in an Age of Delusion.*
1898. William Thomas Councilman, Boston. *The Relation of Pathology to Medicine.*
1899. Edward Hickling Bradford, Boston. *The Expansion of Medicine.*
1900. Arthur Tracy Cabot, Boston. *Realism in Medicine.*
1901. George Ebenezer Francis, Worcester. *Medical Prospects.*
1902. Willard Shepard Everett, Hyde Park. *The Present Status of the Practice of Medicine and the Urgent Need of More Stringent Application of Hygiene and Sanitary Laws.*
1903. Herbert Leslie Burrell, Boston. *Surgical Tuberculosis.*
1904. Harold Clarence Ernst, Jamaica Plain. *Some Fermentations in Medical Education.*
1905. Charles Aaron Drew, Bridgewater. *Some Facts and Fancies about Mind and Body.*
1906. John Lewis Hildreth, Cambridge. *The General Practitioner and the Specialist.*
1907. John Forster Alleyne Adams, Pittsfield. *The Segregation of Consumptives.*
1908. Thomas Francis Harrington, Boston. *The Sanctity of Medicine.*
1909. James Gregory Mumford, Boston. *The Blood in Surgery, — a Historical and Critical Study.*
1910. John Cummings Munro, Boston. *Indigestion viewed from a Surgical Standpoint.*
1911. Maurice Howe Richardson, Boston. *The Present Position and Value of the Exploratory or Operative Diagnosis.*
1912. Walter Elmore Fernald, Waverley. *The Burden of Feeble-Mindedness.*
1913. Homer Gage, Worcester. *Some Abuses of Surgical Practice.*
1914. Horace David Arnold, Boston. *The Education of the Public in Medical Matters.*
1915. Everett Alanson Bates, Springfield. *Some Perplexities in Modern Medicine.*

1916. David Linn Edsall, Milton. *Movements in Medicine.*
  1917. Philemon Edwards Truesdale, Fall River. *Military Medicine.*
  1918. Myles Standish, Boston. *Socialization of the Practice of Medicine.*
  1919. Samuel Crowell, Dorchester. *The Reflections of a Physician Who Stayed at Home.*
  1920. Hugh Cabot, Ann Arbor, Michigan. *Compulsory Health Insurance, State Medicine or What?*
  1921. Francis Wayland Anthony, Haverhill. *Some of the Mutual Relations between the Physician and the Commonwealth.*
  1922. Benjamin Kendall Emerson, Worcester. *The International Mind in Medicine.*
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## SHATTUCK LECTURERS AND THEIR SUBJECTS,

1890-1922

1890. George Brune Shattuck, Boston. *Influenza in Massachusetts.*
1891. Edward Cowles, Somerville. *Neurasthenia and its Mental Symptoms.*
1892. James Forster Alleyne Adams, Pittsfield. *The Prevention of Disease in Massachusetts.*
1893. William Osler, Baltimore, Md. *Tuberculous Pleurisy.*
1894. Thomas Dwight, Nahant. *The Range and Significance of Variation in the Human Skeleton.*
1895. Robert Thaxter Edes, Jamaica Plain. *The New England Invalid.*
1896. William Williams Keen, Philadelphia, Pa. *Gangrene as a Complication and Sequel of the continued Fevers, especially of Typhoid.*
1897. David Williams Cheever, Boston. *The New Surgery.*
1898. Sir William Hales Hingston, Montreal, Canada. *The Influence of the North American Climate on the People.*
1899. James Jackson Putnam, Boston. *Not the Disease only, but also the Man.*
1900. William Henry Welch, Baltimore, Md. *Morbid Conditions Caused by bacillus aerogenes capsulatus.*
1901. William Fiske Whitney, Boston. *The Alleged Increase of Cancer in Massachusetts.*
1902. Frank Billings, Chicago, Ill. *The Changes in the Spinal Cord and Medulla in Pernicious Anaemia.*
1903. Theobald Smith, Boston. *The Sources, Favoring Conditions and Prophylaxis of Malaria in Temperate Climates, with Special Reference to Massachusetts.*
1904. George Sumner Huntington, New York, N. Y. *The Relation of Comparative Anatomy to Medical Education and Practice.*
1905. Russell Henry Chittenden, New Haven, Conn. *Some Problems of Intermediary Metabolism.*
1906. Victor Clarence Vaughan, Ann Arbor, Mich. *A Contribution to the Chemistry of the Bacterial Cell and a Study of the Effects of some of the Split Products on Animals.*

1907. Frederick Cheever Shattuck, Boston. The Past, Present and Future of Tuberculosis.
1908. Frederick Forchheimer, Cincinnati, O. Some Aspects of Gonorrhoea.
1909. Edward Wyllys Taylor, Boston. The Widening Sphere of Medicine.
1910. Frederic Henry Gerrish, Portland, Me. A Crusade against Syphilis and Gonorrhea.
1911. Richard Clarke Cabot, Boston. Observations Regarding the Relative Frequency of the Different Diseases Prevalent in Boston and its Vicinity.
1912. David Linn Edsall, Philadelphia, Pa. The Clinical Study of Respiration.
1913. Harvey Cushing, Boston. Diabetes Insipidus and the Polyurias of Hypophysial Origin.
1914. Herbert Charles Moffitt, San Francisco, Calif. The Functions of the Spleen with Particular Reference to Hemolysis and the Hemolytic Anemias.
1915. Joel Ernest Goldthwait, Boston. An Anatomic and Mechanistic Conception of Disease.
1916. Theodore Caldwell Janeway, Baltimore, Md. The Etiology of the Diseases of the Circulatory System.
1917. Walter Bradford Cannon, Boston. The Physiological Factors Concerned in Surgical Shock.
1918. Ernest Elmer Southard, Boston. Shell Shock and After.
1919. Francis Gano Benedict, Boston. Energy Requirements of Children from Birth to Puberty.
1920. Allan Joseph McLaughlin, Washington, D. C. Influenza.
1921. Haven Emerson, New York City. The Prevention of Heart Disease.
1922. Elliott Proctor Joslin, Boston. The Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus.

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### ANNIVERSARY CHAIRMEN

Name	Date of Meeting	Place of Meeting
HENRY HALSEY CHILDS.	May 28, 1851.	Worcester.
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.	June 23, 1852.	Pittsfield.
EDWARD REYNOLDS.	May 25, 1853.	Boston.
ELISHA HUNTINGTON.	June 21, 1854.	Fitchburg.
WILLIAM JOHNSON DALE.	June 27, 1855.	Springfield.
ABRAHAM RAND THOMPSON.	May 28, 1856.	Boston.
LUTHER VOSE BELL.	June 3, 1857.	New Bedford.
JOSIAH BARTLETT.	May 26, 1858.	Boston.
HENRY LYMAN SABIN.	May 25, 1859.	Boston.
DAVID HUMPHREYS STORER.	May 30, 1860.	Boston.
HENRY JACOB BIGELOW.	May 29, 1861.	Boston.
HENRY JACOB BIGELOW.	May 28, 1862.	Boston.
HENRY HALSEY CHILDS.	June 17, 1863.	Pittsfield.
HENRY JACOB BIGELOW.	May 25, 1864.	Boston.
WILLIAM EDWARD COALE.	May 31, 1865.	Boston.



WILLIAM EDWARD TOWNSEND.	May 30, 1866.	Boston.
HENRY WILLARD WILLIAMS.	June 5, 1867.	Boston.
JOHN NELSON BORLAND.	June 3, 1868.	Boston.
JABEZ BAXTER UPHAM.	June 2, 1869.	Boston.
GEORGE HINCKLEY LYMAN.	May 25, 1870.	Boston.
LUTHER PARKS.	June 7, 1871.	Boston.
RICHARD MANNING HODGES.	June 5, 1872.	Boston.
OSCAR COLEMAN DEWOLF.	June 4, 1873.	Boston.
RICHARD LORD HODGDON.	June 3, 1874.	Boston.
THOMAS NEWCOMB STONE.	June 9, 1875.	Boston.
JOHN HOWELL MACKIE.	June 14, 1876.	Boston.
ALFRED HOSMER.	June 13, 1877.	Boston.
PETER PINEO.	June 12, 1878.	Boston.
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HOLMES.	June 11, 1879.	Boston.
JOHN COLLINS WARREN.	June 9, 1880.	Boston.
JAMES CLARKE WHITE.	June 8, 1881.	Boston.
GEORGE STERNE OSBORNE.	June 14, 1882.	Boston.
FRANCIS HENRY BROWN.	June 13, 1883.	Boston.
GEORGE BRUNE SHATTUCK.	June 11, 1884.	Boston.
ROBERT AMORY.	June 10, 1885.	Boston.
EDWIN BAYARD HARVEY.	June 9, 1886.	Boston.
WILLIAM LAMBERT RICHARDSON.	June 8, 1887.	Boston.
CHARLES BURNHAM PORTER.	June 13, 1888.	Boston.
JAMES READ CHADWICK.	June 12, 1889.	Boston.
JOSEPH STEDMAN.	June 11, 1890.	Boston.
THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN BRECK.	June 10, 1891.	Boston.
EDWARD HICKLING BRADFORD.	June 8, 1892.	Boston.
GEORGE WASHINGTON GAY.	June 14, 1893.	Boston.
SILAS DEAN PRESBREY.	June 12, 1894.	Boston.
HERBERT LESLIE BURRELL.	June 11, 1895.	Boston.

[The office of Anniversary Chairman was abolished at an adjourned meeting of the Society, October 3, 1894, when By-Law XIX was amended.]

## CATALOGUES, LISTS OF THE FELLOWS OR DIRECTORIES HAVE BEEN PRINTED IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS:

1789, 1804, 1806, 1807, 1811, 1813, 1816, 1819, 1821, 1822, 1826, 1829, 1832, 1837, 1840, 1850, 1854, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1878, 1881, 1884, 1887, 1890, 1893, 1896, 1899, 1902, 1905, 1908, 1911, 1912. A yearly directory has been issued since, beginning in 1911. The first alphabetical catalogue of all the fellows from 1787 to 1854 was published in 1855; another catalogue of the fellows from 1781 to 1870 appeared in 1870, bearing the notation on the title page: "This Catalogue prepared by Dr. Henry I. Bowditch with Henry Tuck." The catalogue of 1875, containing the fellows from 1781 to 1875 has

this comment on the first page: "This Catalogue prepared by Dr. Henry Tuck." The next complete list, the so-called "Historical Catalogue," one that contained in addition to a complete list of fellows from the beginning of the society data as to the history of the society, appeared in the spring of 1894, having been made by the treasurer of the society, Dr. Edward J. Forster.

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ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO THE SOCIETY, DIGESTS OF THE LAWS, BY-LAWS AND ORDERS OF THE SOCIETY AND COUNCIL HAVE BEEN PRINTED IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS:

1804, 1806, 1816, 1819, 1822, 1826, 1832, 1837, 1840, 1849, 1850, 1853, 1856, 1860, 1874, 1881, 1887, 1893, 1897, 1907, 1913, 1920.

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FIRST LIST OF MEDICAL COLLEGES APPROVED  
BY COUNCIL

PRESERVE THIS FOR REFERENCE

*Massachusetts Medical Society*

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THIS circular contains a list of American Medical Colleges recognized for the purpose set forth in By-Law I., regarding the examination of candidates for admission to the Massachusetts Medical Society.

*Adopted by the Councillors February 1, 1882.*

Attest,

FRANCIS W. GOSS,  
*Recording Secretary.*

## AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

- Southern University, Greensboro', Alabama.  
Medical College of Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.  
Arkansas Industrial University, Little Rock, Arkansas.  
University (City) College, San Francisco, California: Medical College of the Pacific.  
University of California, Berkeley, California: Medical Department, at San Francisco.  
Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut.  
Atlanta Medical College, Atlanta, Georgia.  
Southern Medical College, Atlanta, Georgia.  
University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia: Medical College of Georgia, at Augusta.  
Savannah Medical College, Savannah, Georgia.  
Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois.  
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois: Chicago Medical College, at Chicago.  
Medical College of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana.  
Medical College of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, Indiana.  
Butler University, Irvington, Indiana: Medical College of Indiana, at Indianapolis.  
State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.  
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa.  
Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville, Kentucky.  
Louisville Medical College, Louisville, Kentucky.  
University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.  
Central University, Richmond, Kentucky: Hospital College of Medicine, at Louisville.  
University of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana.  
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine: Medical School of Maine.  
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Maryland.  
University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland.  
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
University of Michigan, Ann Harbor, Michigan: Department of Medicine and Surgery.  
Detroit Medical College, Detroit, Michigan.  
University of the State of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.  
Kansas City College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kansas City, Missouri.  
St. Joseph Hospital Medical College, St. Joseph, Missouri.  
Missouri Medical College, St. Louis, Missouri. [Formerly "McDowell College."]  
St. Louis Medical College, St. Louis, Missouri.  
Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.  
Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, New York.  
University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.  
Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, New York.  
Columbia College, New York, New York: College of Physicians and Surgeons.  
University of the City of New York, New York.



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Union University, Schenectady, New York: Albany Medical College, at Albany.

Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Medical College of Ohio, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio: Cleveland Medical College, at Cleveland.

University of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio: Medical Department, at Cleveland.

Columbus Medical College, Columbus, Ohio.

Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio.

Willamette University, Salem, Oregon: Medical Department, at Portland.

Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Medical College of the State of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina.

Central Tennessee College, Nashville, Tennessee.

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

University of Nashville, Nashville, Tennessee.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee: Nashville Medical College, at Nashville.

Texas Medical College and Hospital, Galveston, Texas.

University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.

Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

University of Virginia, University of Virginia P. O., Virginia.

Georgetown University, Georgetown, D. C.: Medical Department, at Washington.

Columbian University, Washington, D. C.: National Medical College.

Howard University, Washington, D. C.

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### LIST OF MEDICAL COLLEGES OF 1905

PRESERVE THIS FOR REFERENCE

DESTROY LISTS OF EARLIER DATE

## *The Massachusetts Medical Society*

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A list of Medical Colleges of the United States recognized for the purpose set forth in By-Law I, regarding the examination of candidates for admission to The Massachusetts Medical Society, adopted by the Council; and also the votes passed by the Council in reference to foreign degrees.

Printed by vote of the Council.

HORACE E. MARION,	} <i>Committee</i>	
ORVILLE F. ROGERS,		<i>on Medical</i>
HERBERT W. NEWHALL,		<i>Diplomas.</i>

BOSTON, APRIL, 1905.



## MEDICAL COLLEGES OF THE UNITED STATES

- ALABAMA**, Birmingham. — Birmingham Medical College.  
Greensboro. — Southern University. — Last session closed in 1880.  
Mobile. — Medical College of Alabama.
- ARKANSAS**, Little Rock. — Medical Department of Arkansas University, formerly Arkansas Industrial University.
- CALIFORNIA**, San Francisco. — College of Physicians and Surgeons.  
Cooper Medical College.  
University of California — Toland Medical College.  
Los Angeles. — University of Southern California — College of Medicine.
- COLORADO**, Denver. — Rocky Mountain University — Gross Medical College, merged in Denver and Gross College of Medicine.  
Medical Dept. of the University of Denver. No response 1905.  
Boulder. — Medical Dept. of the University of Colorado — Colorado School of Medicine.
- CONNECTICUT**, New Haven. — Medical Department of Yale College.
- DIST. OF COLUMBIA**, Washington. — Columbian University.  
National Medical College prior to 1904, now Medical Dept. of George Washington University.  
Medical Dept. of the University of Georgetown.  
Medical Dept. of Howard University.  
Medical Dept. of the National University, prior to 1905, now Medical Dept. of George Washington University.
- GEORGIA**, Augusta. — Medical Dept. of the University of Georgia. — Medical College of Georgia.  
Atlanta. — Atlanta Medical College, now Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons.  
Southern Medical College. No response in 1905.  
Savannah. — Savannah Medical College, prior to 1880.
- ILLINOIS**, Chicago. — American Medical Missionary College.  
Rush Medical College.  
North-western University — Chicago Medical College.  
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago.  
Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital.  
Bennett College of Eclectic Medicine and Surgery.  
Chicago Homœopathic Medical College, prior to 1905.  
Illinois Medical College.  
Jenner Medical College.

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ILLINOIS, Quincy. — Chaddock College. — Quincy College of Medicine, prior to 1905.

INDIANA, Evansville. — Medical College of Evansville, prior to 1884.  
Hospital Medical College of Evansville. Ceased to exist.

Indianapolis. — Indiana Eclectic Medical College.  
Medical College of Indiana.  
Central College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Fort Wayne. — Fort Wayne College of Medicine.  
Medical College of Fort Wayne, prior to 1883.

IOWA, Keokuk. — College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Iowa City. — Medical Dept. of the State University of Iowa.

Des Moines. — College of Physicians and Surgeons of Iowa. No response in 1905.

Sioux City. — Sioux City College of Medicine.

KANSAS, Kansas City. — College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Topeka. — Kansas Medical College.

KENTUCKY, Louisville. — Medical Dept. of the University of Louisville.

Kentucky School of Medicine.

Louisville Medical College.

Central University. — Hospital College of Medicine.

Kentucky University.

LOUISIANA, New Orleans. — Medical Dept. of Tulane University of Louisiana.

MAINE, Brunswick. — Bowdoin College — Medical School of Maine.

MARYLAND, Baltimore. — Maryland Medical College of Baltimore.

Johns Hopkins University, Medical Department.

School of Medicine of the University of Maryland.

College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Baltimore Medical College.

Woman's Medical College of Baltimore.

Baltimore University School of Medicine.

MASSACHUSETTS, Boston. — Medical School of Harvard University.

New England Female Medical College, prior to 1873.

Boston University — School of Medicine.

College of Physicians and Surgeons, from 1891 to 1894 inclusive.

Tufts College — Medical School.

Pittsfield. — Berkshire Medical College, prior to 1868.

MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor. — Dept. of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Michigan.

University of Michigan — Homœopathic Medical College.



Detroit. — Detroit College of Medicine.

Detroit Medical College and Michigan College of Medicine, prior to their union in 1885 as the Detroit College of Medicine.

Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery.

Saginaw Valley Medical College.

Grand Rapids. — Grand Rapids Medical College.

MINNESOTA, St. Paul. — St. Paul Medical College prior to 1884, now Medical School of University of Minnesota.

Minneapolis. — Minnesota College Hospital prior to 1884, now Medical School of University of Minnesota, Medical Dept. of the University of Minnesota, from June, 1888, when degrees were first granted, at which date Minnesota College Hospital and St. Paul Medical College ceased to exist.

Hamline University College of Medicine.

MISSOURI, St. Louis. — Missouri Medical College prior to 1898, } now Medical  
St. Louis Medical College prior to 1892, } Department, Washington University.

St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Barnes Medical College.

Homœopathic Medical College.

Beaumont Hospital Medical College, prior to 1905.

Marion-Sims-Beaumont Medical College.

Columbia. — Medical School of the University of the State of Missouri.

Kansas City. — Medico-Chirurgical College.

Kansas City Medical College.

Medical Department of the University of Kansas City, now University Medical College.

Woman's Medical College.

St. Joseph. — North-western Medical College of St. Joseph. No response in 1905.

St. Joseph Medical College, prior to 1905.

Central Medical College.

Ensworth Medical College.

NEBRASKA, Omaha. — Omaha Medical College prior to 1902, now College of Medicine, University of Nebraska.

John A. Creighton Medical College.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Hanover. — Medical Department of Dartmouth College.

NEW YORK, New York. — Columbia College — College of Physicians and Surgeons.

University Medical College, prior to 1898.

Bellevue Hospital Medical College, prior to 1898.

University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

Cornell University Medical College.

NEW YORK, New York. — New York Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital.

Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

University of the State of New York — New York Medical College and Hospital for Women.

Albany. — Albany Medical College of Union University.

Buffalo. — Medical Department of the University of Buffalo.  
Medical Department of Niagara University, prior to 1898.

Brooklyn. — Long Island College Hospital.

Geneva. — Geneva Medical College. Ceased to exist.

Syracuse. — College of Medicine of Syracuse University.

NORTH CAROLINA, Davidson. — North Carolina Medical College.

Raleigh. — Shaw University — Leonard Medical School.  
University of North Carolina, Medical Department.

OHIO, Cincinnati. — Medical College of Ohio.

Eclectic Medical Institute.

Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, prior to 1905.

Miami Medical College.

Pulte Medical College.

Woman's Medical College, prior to 1903.

Cleveland. — Western Reserve University — Cleveland Medical School.

Cleveland College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Cleveland Homœopathic Hospital College.

Columbus. — Ohio Medical University.

Starling Medical College.

Columbus Medical College prior to 1892, now Starling Medical College.

Toledo. — North-western Ohio Medical College. No response in 1905.

Toledo Medical College.

Wooster. — University of Wooster prior to 1871, now Cleveland College of Physicians and Surgeons.

OREGON, Portland. — Medical Department of the University of Oregon.

Medical Department of Willamette University.

PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia. — Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

Jefferson Medical College.

Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia.

Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital.

Pittsburg. — Western Pennsylvania Medical College.

SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston. — Medical College of the State of South Carolina.

TENNESSEE, Chattanooga. — Chattanooga Medical College.

Knoxville. — Tennessee Medical College.

Nashville. — Medical Department of the University of Nashville, now Vanderbilt University.

University of Tennessee — Nashville Medical College.

Meharry Medical Department of Central Tennessee College.

Memphis. — South-western Baptist University — Memphis Hospital Medical College.

Sewanee. — Sewanee Medical College — Medical Department of University of the South.

TEXAS, Dallas. — Baylor University College of Medicine.

Fort Worth. — Medical Department, Fort Worth University.

Galveston. — Texas Medical College and Hospital. The last course of lectures was delivered in 1880-81.

University of Texas, Medical Department.

VERMONT, Burlington. — Medical Department of the University of Vermont.

VIRGINIA, Charlottesville. — Medical Department of the University of Virginia.

Richmond. — Medical College of Virginia.

University College of Medicine.

WISCONSIN, Milwaukee. — Milwaukee Medical College.

Wisconsin College of Physicians and Surgeons.

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#### FOREIGN DEGREES

Graduates of all foreign Regular Medical Schools which are under government supervision, and graduates of all foreign Regular Medical Schools not under government supervision, who have obtained a license to practise in any foreign country, shall be eligible for examination by the Censors.

In case any applicant for admission (possessing a foreign medical diploma) should not belong to either of these two classes, the Censors shall refer the degree held by the applicant to the Committee On Diplomas for instruction. [VOTE OF FEBRUARY 4, 1885.]

The Degrees of the University of Berne, University of Zürich and the School of Medicine in Paris are recognized by the Society. [VOTE OF FEBRUARY 4, 1885.]

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LAST LIST OF MEDICAL COLLEGES APPROVED BY COUNCIL  
PRESERVE THIS FOR REFERENCE  
DESTROY LISTS OF EARLIER DATES

### *The Massachusetts Medical Society*

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A list of the Medical Schools and Colleges of the United States and Canada recognized for the purpose set forth in the By-laws, Chapter I, Section I, regarding the examination of candidates for admission to The Massachusetts



## 482 MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Medical Society, as adopted by the Council; and also the provisions of the By-laws as to unlisted schools, and a vote passed by the Council with reference to diplomas from not recognized medical schools.

C. F. PAINTER, <i>Chairman</i> ,	} <i>Committee on Medical Education and Medical Diplomas.</i>
J. F. BURNHAM,	
A. G. HOWARD,	
R. L. DE NORMANDIE,	
H. P. STEVENS,	

BOSTON, JUNE 13, 1922.

### UNITED STATES

Albany Medical College  
 Baylor University School of Medicine  
 Boston University School of Medicine  
 Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons  
 Cornell University Medical College  
 Creighton University College of Medicine  
 Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery  
 Emory University Medical College  
 Fordham University School of Medicine  
 Georgetown University School of Medicine  
 George Washington University Medical School  
 Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia  
 Harvard University Medical School  
 Howard University School of Medicine  
 Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Jefferson Medical College  
 Johns Hopkins University Medical Department  
 Long Island College Hospital  
 Marquette University School of Medicine  
 Medical College of the State of South Carolina  
 Medical College of Virginia  
 Northwestern University Medical School  
 Ohio State University College of Medicine  
 Rush Medical College (University of Chicago)  
 St. Louis University School of Medicine  
 Stanford University School of Medicine  
 State University of Iowa College of Medicine  
 Syracuse University College of Medicine  
 Tufts College Medical School  
 Tulane University School of Medicine  
 University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College  
 University of California Medical School  
 University of Cincinnati Medical College  
 University of Colorado School of Medicine  
 University of Georgia Medical Department  
 University of Illinois College of Medicine



University of Kansas School of Medicine  
University of Louisville Medical Department  
University of Maryland School of Medicine and College of Physicians and Surgeons  
University of Michigan Medical School  
University of Michigan Homeopathic Medical School  
University of Minnesota Medical School  
University of Nebraska School of Medicine  
University of Buffalo Medical Department  
University of Oklahoma School of Medicine  
University of Oregon Medical Department  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
University of Tennessee College of Medicine  
University of Texas School of Medicine  
University of Vermont College of Medicine  
University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine  
Washington University Medical School  
Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
West Virginia University School of Medicine  
Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania  
Yale University School of Medicine

## CANADA

University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine  
McGill University Faculty of Medicine

---

TO THE SECRETARIES OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL  
SOCIETIES

Diplomas from extinct medical schools and colleges, and diplomas and licenses to practise from foreign or domestic medical schools which are not on the list of medical schools and colleges approved by the council, should be referred to the chairman of the Committee on Medical Education and Medical Diplomas by the district secretary before the applicant is permitted to take an examination (By-laws, Chap. V, Sect. 1), and the decision of this committee is final (By-laws, Chap. VII, Sect. 5).

---

At the annual meeting of the Council, June 9, 1914, it was *Voted*: That the Committee on Medical Education and Medical Diplomas have power to recognize a medical degree coming from a not recognized medical school, presented by a candidate for fellowship in the Massachusetts Medical Society, provided

such candidate has practised in a given locality for a minimum of five years, has proved himself to be a skillful and conscientious practitioner of medicine, and is recommended by a number of his neighbors who are already fellows of the Society. (The medical degree and the written recommendations of neighbors should be sent to the chairman of the Committee on Medical Education and Medical Diplomas at least two weeks before any given examination.)

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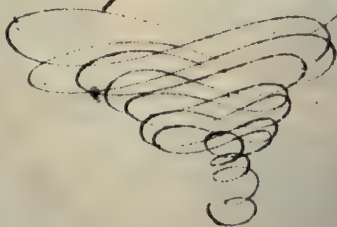
The address of the Chairman of the Committee on Medical Education and Medical Diplomas is **Dr. Charles F. Painter**, 520 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 17, Massachusetts.



An Act to Incorporate  
certain Physicians  
by the name of the  
Medical Society

Ch. 6.

Sept. 17 1781. 15





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LIBRARY



(Common Wealth of Massachusetts)  
In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred  
& eighty one.

An Act to incorporate certain Physicians by the  
Name of the Massachusetts Medical Society

11

~~HEALTH~~ The Health is essentially necessary to

The Happiness of Society, & as the Preservation

Precedence are closely connected with the improvement

Health of the Animal Economy, and also the Improvement

Effects of Medicine, and also the Benefit of

Medical Institutions formed on liberal principles

& encouraged in the Patronage of the State

& universally acknowledged, that it is

(= page 4) by the Senate, 1781

Other than  
James Lloyd Garrison, Samuel  
Dexter M. Isaac, Robert Charles Jarvis, Thomas East, John  
Horsen, John L. B. Garrison, Curtis Thomas, Wm. H. K.  
Thaniel & Charles A. Weston, Joseph W. H. W. Weston, Aaron Weston,  
Charles Weston.

And the hereby are joined into,  
constituted & created a body politic & corporate by  
the Name of the Wm. Lachute & Sons Medical  
Society, and that they and their successors &  
such other Persons as shall be elected in the  
manner hereafter mentioned, shall be & continue  
a Body Politic & corporate by the same Name forever.







and Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid,

That the Fellows of said Society may from time to time elect a President, Vice President, & Secretary with other Officers as they shall judge necessary & convenient, and, they, the Fellows of said Society, shall have full Power & Authority from time to time, to determine & establish the Names, Number & Salary of their several Officers,

and the Tenure or Estate they shall respectively have in their Offices, & also to authorize & empower their President or some other Officer to administer such Oaths to such Officers, as they, the Fellows

with ordering & good Government & society,  
provided the same be not repugnant to the laws  
of this Commonwealth.

And We do enact by the Authority aforesaid, That  
the Fellows do & Society shall have one common  
Seal, & power to break, change & renew the same  
at their pleasure.

3.  
We do give in by the authority aforesaid, That the  
Fellows of S<sup>t</sup> Society may sue & be sued in  
all Actions, real, personal or mixed, & process  
& defend the same unto final Judgement &  
Execution, by the Name of the W<sup>ill</sup>iam Hall  
Medical Society.







And Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,

That, the Fellow of said Society may from time  
to time elect such Persons to be Fellows thereof  
as they shall judge proper & that they the Fellows  
of said Society, shall have power to suspend, expell  
or disfranchise any Fellow of said Society

And Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,

That the Fellows of said Society shall have full  
Power & authority to make, & enact such Rules  
& Byelaws for the better Government of said Society  
as are not repugnant to the Laws of this  
Commonwealth &



consent to the Disfranchisement of them, not exceeding  
the sum of Twenty Pounds to be sued for & re-  
covered by said society & to their own use, in and  
out of record within this commonwealth &  
also to establish the time & manner of conveying  
the petition of said society also to determine the  
number of petitioners that shall be present to establish  
a meeting of said society & also that the petition  
of said society who are inhabitants of this commonwealth  
shall not at any one time be more than twenty  
nor less than ten, & that their meeting shall be  
held in the Town of Boston or such other place  
within this commonwealth as a majority of the  
members present in a legal meeting shall judge  
most fit & convenient







And Whereas it is clearly of importance that a

just discrimination should be made between  
such as are duly educated & properly qualified  
for the duties of their Profession & those who may  
be ignorant & unwisely administer Medicine;  
whereby the Health & Lives of many valuable indi-  
viduals are endangered or perhaps lost to the  
Community; Be it therefore enacted by the authority

of said Society that the President & Fellows of said Society

or other such of their Officers or Fellows as they

shall appoint, shall have full power & Authority  
to examine all Candidates for the Practice  
of Medicine & Surgery who shall

on examination, depending their truth on their  
opinion; if ever such examination the said  
Candidates shall be found skilled in their  
profession & fitted for the practice of it, they  
shall receive the approbation of the Society in  
Letters Testimonials of such Examination, under  
the Seal of the said Society, signed by the President  
or such other person or persons as shall be appointed  
for that purpose.

And, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,  
that if the said President and such other person  
or persons so elected & appointed for the purpose  
of examining Candidates as aforesaid; shall  
admonitantly refuse to examine any Candidate

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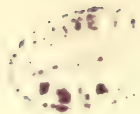


time as they shall think most meet & convenient  
elect & choose five persons of said Society: The

and five persons & or any three of them as  
elected & chosen after being sworn by the Board  
of said Society who having impowered & administered  
such oath faithfully, unrevocably & to the best  
of their Skill & Judgement to perform the  
Duties of their appointment, May & shall.

Upon reasonable Information or Knowledge  
of such Drugs, Medicine & being rendered  
or







or exposed to sale as come within the foregoing  
Description) have full power & authority to enter  
into, the House; when on Store of any Apothecary  
that now are, or shall hereafter be within this

Commonwealth, for the purpose only of examining  
all or any such Apothecaries' Wares, Drugs & stuffs,

As the Apothecaries have, or as they shall hereafter  
shall have in their Houses, Shops or Stores, and  
All such Wares, Drugs & Medicines as the



two persons or any number of them shall find  
to be defective, corrupted, & not fit & convenient  
to be given in any medicines, or applied to  
any useful purposes; they shall cause to be  
destroyed or disposed of for the benefit of the poor  
of the Town, Place or District in which said  
"agencies shall be committed - and if any  
Apothecary at any time hereafter do obstinately  
or wilfully refuse ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> give the said ~~for~~  
persons

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WEST  
PUBL  
LIBRA



~~Persons or any three of them elected & chosen  
as aforesaid to enter his Shop, Shop, or Store  
for fire purposes & intent aforesaid, or when  
entered shall not, herewith the said five persons  
or any of them to examine & Dugge Woods &  
Suff, he shall forfeit for every time he so offends  
the sum of            pounds, one half to the             
& the other half to any person who shall sue for~~

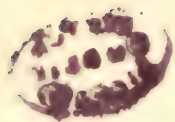
and if the said five persons so elected & chosen as  
aforesaid shall refuse to be sworn, or after his  
said oath to him or them administered, do  
intentionally refuse to make the said examination,  
having no lawful impediment, by law or  
otherwise to the contrary: that then for any  
such wilful & obstinate neglect <sup>or refusal</sup> of the said five  
persons making the said oath to the

PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

124

P.

BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY







And Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid

That the Fellows of said Society may, & shall  
forever be deemed capable in Law, of having,  
holding & taking in Fee simple or any less Estate  
by Gift, Grant or Devise or otherwise any lands,  
Tenement or other Estate real or personal, provided  
that the annuall income <sup>A</sup> of said real Estate <sup>B</sup> do  
not exceed the sum of Two hundred Pounds  
& the annuall income or interest of said personal

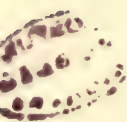
Memorandum for Mr. [illegible]

Five hundred - pounds - All the sums  
mentioned in this Act to be valued in silver at  
<sup>shillings</sup> six & eight pence pounce & And the annual  
income or interest of the said real & personal  
estate, together with the fines & penalties paid to  
said society - or recovered there, shall be

appropriated to such purposes as are con-  
sistent with the ends & Design of the Institution  
of the said society, & as the Fellows thereof shall

determine  
In the House of the said society on the 15th of August 1781  
This Bill was read a first time & was ordered to be printed  
to be printed & sent up for consideration  
on the 15th of August  
Wm Gosham & Treasr





Dr. Conner Sept. 17, 1781 —

Read the second time & passed a Concurrence to be  
engrafted with the amendment at A, in do. from A. B.  
& insert, "the whole real Estate that may be given  
granted or devised to or purchased by the said  
Society shall" sent down for Concurrence

In the House of Representatives Sept. 17, 1781  
Read & unimproved. Nath. Gorham Speaker









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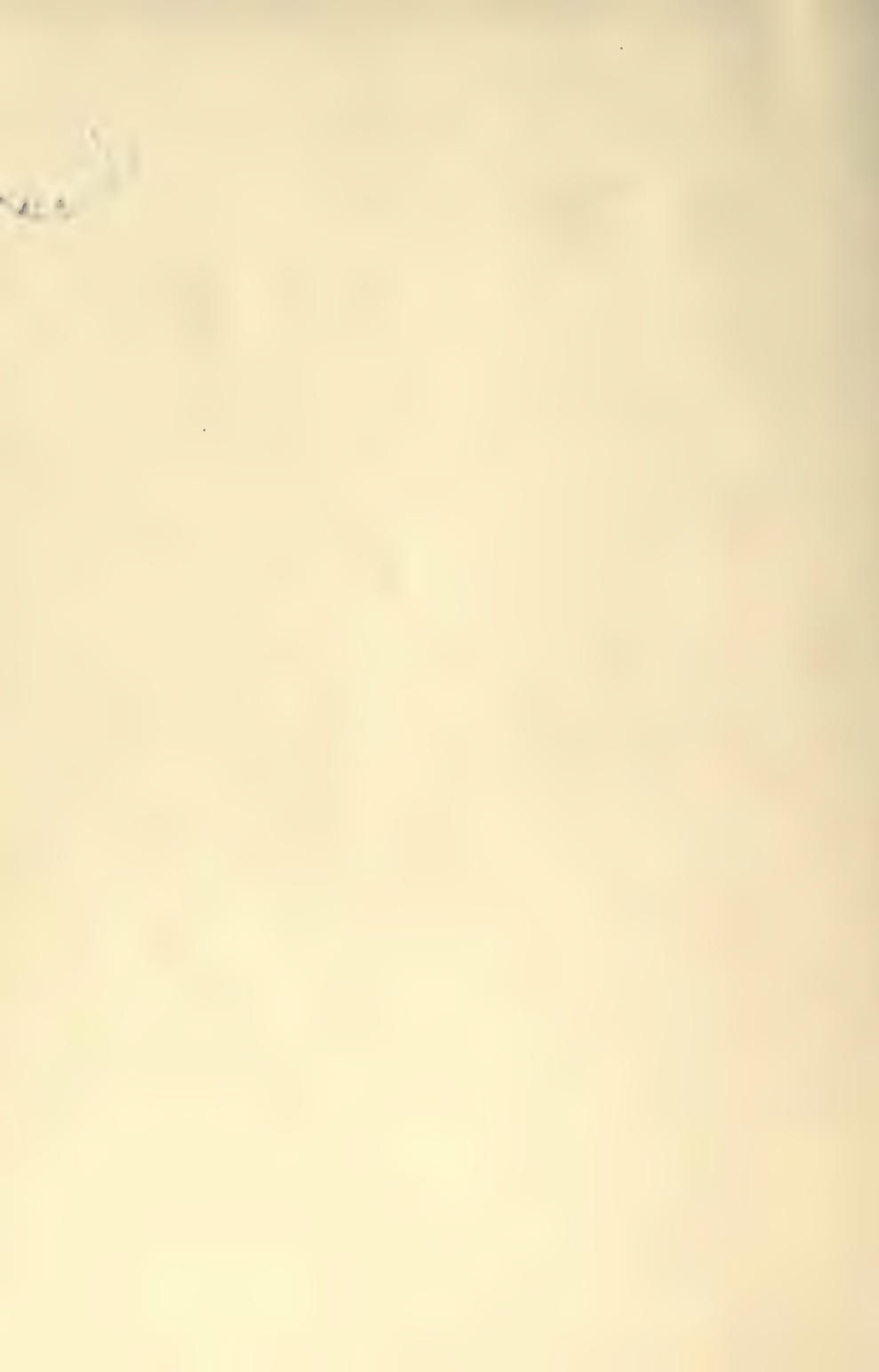


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